

DN disabilitynow

the campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

£1.80 May 2003 • established 1984

Jobs cash call

A committee of MPs has delivered a powerful "wake-up call" to the government over its schemes to boost the employment of disabled people.

An interim report* from the Work and Pensions Select Committee, released last month, warns that Jobcentre Plus will not be able to deliver Labour's work-focused schemes for disabled people without more money.

In particular, the New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) is severely under resourced" and its budget "does not reflect the size of the task to be achieved".

Access to Work, which pays for adjustments to help employ disabled people, should rise by a significant proportion".

It called for greater publicity for both schemes, a greater effort to convince businesses to employ disabled people, and more money to help disabled people with the greatest needs.

Lorna Reith, chief executive

of Disability Alliance, said the report was a "wake-up call" for the government, which had "underestimated how serious the barriers are for disabled people moving into work" when allocating money for its schemes.

But even if the government accepted the recommendations, she said, they would take time to have any impact because of "deeply ingrained attitudes" and people who were a long distance from the jobs market.

The committee's report upheld charities' concerns that the "outcome related funding" of NDDP was leading to job brokers "creaming" off less severely disabled people.

It called for more money to be given to job brokers when they take a disabled person on, and for them not to be penalised when clients move into part-time rather than full-time work.

The share of NDDP funding

should also be increased in relation to other groups, as more working age people claim incapacity benefit than lone parents and unemployed people on benefits combined, but their share is currently less.

All frontline staff working with disabled people need awareness training, it said.

The committee was concerned that disabled people "still face considerable financial barriers in the move from benefits to work" and called for measures, including a four weeks extension to benefits after starting work.

Mencap praised a recommendation to raise the income support earnings disregard from £20 to £35 per week.

The Department for Work and Pensions welcomed the report and will be confirming its actions "in due course".

*www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/work_and_pensions_committee.cfm

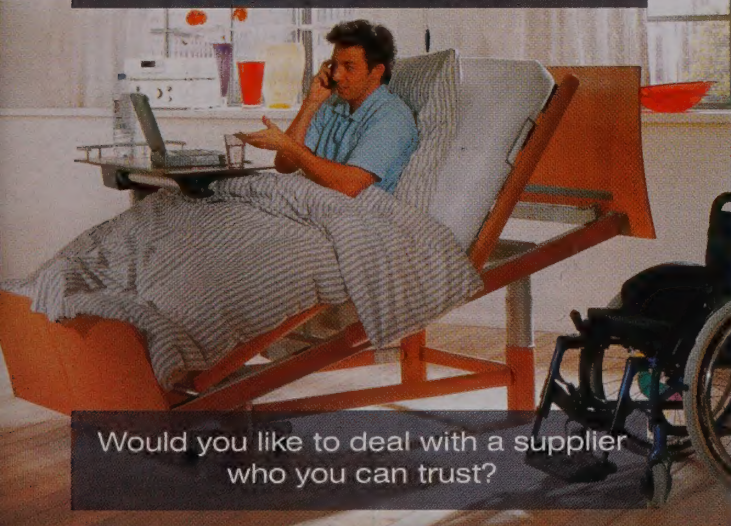


MARK CHILVERS

Chequered history: actor and playwright Nabil Shaban prepares to hand back a £24,800 cheque through the gates of Downing Street in protest at the war in Iraq. It was the first instalment of a £47,800 European Year of Disabled People grant to stage *The First To Go*, his play about the Nazis' extermination of disabled people.

designed for people
with Cerebral Palsy

Do you care for someone?
Do you think its important to be
protected from injury?



Would you like to deal with a supplier
who you can trust?

If the answer is yes...

call now on 01752 51 22 22 for a free
home trial of our beds*, hoists or mattresses

BaKare

www.bakare.co.uk

*beds now available in 3ft and 4ft widths

Rights Now binned

DN EXCLUSIVE BY NUALA CALVI

Rights Now, the campaigning umbrella group of disability organisations, set up in 1983, has been scrapped after calls for it to kick out major charities and reform under a banner led by disabled people.

Members were balloted following calls from the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN) and voted in favour of becoming an organisation "of" disabled people, with organisations "for" disabled people restricted to a 25 per cent vote.

All organisations will be contacted to decide whether to join a new group, which may be renamed "Our Rights Now". A constitution will be drafted for the first time.

Brenda Ellis, of Greater London Action on Disability,

said the changes would "kick start" the group and counter criticisms by elements in organisations like the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) that it was run by organisations "for" disabled people.

At a Rights Now meeting in April, concerns were raised that the "big seven" disability charities pursued different agendas to organisations of disabled people. In particular, they had not supported the Rights and Freedoms bill, proposed as an alternative Disability Discrimination Act by BCODP and others.

BCODP chief executive Andy Rickell said the DAN letter was a catalyst for something which had been "long overdue".

He said Rights Now was set up for organisations with a common agenda, but it was becoming impossible to

"square a round hole".

Big charities such as MIND and Mencap have all but ceased to attend Rights Now meetings in recent years and, as DN went to press, most were unaware the organisation had dissolved.

Scope's Ruth Scott said it was important to maintain a forum where "of" and "for" organisations could work together.

But Mencap said it was disappointed with the decision and was reviewing its membership. Anthony Noun, Mencap's representative, said he did not think it should remain a member.

He said: "You don't work better by excluding organisations, but by working together."

Ellis said: "We lack resources, but not enthusiasm or spirit. We will be around regardless if the "for" charities support us financially or not."

Front cover: Margrith Hose puts hustle behind the muscle at Westgate Leisure Centre in Chichester, West Sussex, as part of her weekly fitness regime. See "Keep fit", pages 26-27. Photo by John Rigby.

Contents



Pg 29

News

Stories	1-9
Regional news	11
Health news	12
Sport	13
News focus	16
- Cuts in social services	

www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Features

Profile	16
- Clive Garnett, activist	
Employment Survey	17
- charities in the spotlight	
Sport	24-25
- the London Marathon 2003	
Keep fit	26-27
- get yourself in shape	
Gardening	34
- four-page horticulture special	
Good grub	35
- Fergus Henderson, carnivore	

Regulars

Letters to the editor	18
Parent's voice	21
Motoring	22
My job	28
Arts	29
Books	34
Share your problems	36
Take a break	38
Information	40
Classified	41-46
Up for grabs	47



Pg 27

MEDI O T I O N

**NOW
WITH UNIQUE
HIRE/BUYER
PLAN!**



**"Viva"
Full body
model**

THE NEW "VIVA" STATE OF THE ART THERAPEUTIC EXERCISER.

- FULLY PASSIVE MOTION
- ASSISTED ACTIVE MOTION
- OR FULLY ACTIVE

www.motomed-medimotion.co.uk

VISIT
US AT

**"Viva"
Lower
body
model**



**"Pico" Lower
body model**



240 VOLT MACHINES FOR LOWER AND UPPER BODY THERAPY.

UNIQUE ANTI SPASM CONTROL ENSURES SAFE AND
GENTLE CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION.

Can also be used as active trainer using your own muscle power.
Handset operates at variable speeds and resistance to encourage
progress and provides bio-feedback with a digital display.

Designed specifically for M.S. and C.P. patients
and used extensively Worldwide for
Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy.

SUITABLE FOR

- multiple sclerosis
- 'stroke' patients
- paralysis (paraplegia and tetraplegia)
- non-inflammatory illness of the peripheral nerves (polyneuropathy)
- spastic and rheumatic illnesses
- insufficient physical exercise
- blood circulation disorders (prophylaxis of thrombosis)
- oedemas
- Parkinson's disease
- osteoporosis
- muscular dystrophy
- stiffness of the joints
- arthrosis

SOLE UK IMPORTER

TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO HELP YOUR CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS
AND IMPROVE THE FLEXIBILITY OF YOUR JOINTS

CONTACT US FOR A BROCHURE: MEDIMOTION Ltd, PENCADER, CARMARTHENSHIRE. SA39 9AZ.
TEL: 01559 384 097 • FAX: 01559 384 814 • E-mail: medimotion@stayfree.co.uk

disabilitynow

Published by Scope
Editor Mary Wilkinson

editorial

News Editor John Pring
Reporters Nuala Calvi
and Lucy Glynn
Layout Sub David Felton/
Sam Gillespie
Editorial Assistant
Dan Batten
Design/Production Editor
Jamie Trounce

address

Disability Now, 6 Market Road
London N7 9PW
Editorial: 020 7619 7323
Fax: 020 7619 7331
Minicom: 020 7619 7332
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

advertising

Advertising Manager
Richard Gresham
Tel: 020 7619 7336
e-mail: richard.gresham@scope.org.uk
Sales Executive
Patrick Durham-Matthews
Tel: 020 7619 7320
e-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk
Sales Administrative Assistant Suzan Hillman
Tel: 020 7619 7120
Fax: 020 7619 7331

marketing

Marketing Manager
Judith Reid
Marketing Executive
Elizabeth Cowley

subscriptions

Customer Interface, Bradley
Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North,
Bristol BS32 0PP
Tel: 0845 120 7001
e-mail: dnsbs@cisubs.co.uk

printing

Voluntary Sector Services,
Centurion Press Limited,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,
Tel: 01923 891000

newstand distribution

If you have any problems
obtaining a copy of *DN* through
your newsagent or supermarket,
please call Nick Edwards at MMC
on 01483 211222 or email
nick.edwards@mmcltd.co.uk

alternative formats

Disability Now is also available
on cassette, disk or via e-mail
from Talking Newspapers
Enterprises Ltd. For orders or
queries, tel: 01435 862737.
ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability Now*
are not necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright © 2003 Scope

No material may be reproduced, amended or
published, in any format, without the prior
permission of the Editor.

While we strive to maintain the highest
standards in reproduction, *Disability Now* cannot
be held responsible for picture quality.



22,784



1/7/01 - 30/6/02

Seven year ditch

DN EXCLUSIVE BY NUALA CALVI

RADAR has become the latest disability charity to make redundancies in a bid to cut costs, *DN* has learned.

Eleven staff have been told they are at risk of redundancy and nine have chosen to leave rather than apply for one of nine new posts.

Employees are "angry, disillusioned and disappointed" according to sources, who say the new structure means specialist roles will be lost and the organisation forced to adopt a more "business-like" ethos.

RADAR says it is responding to consultations with members and the changes are part of its new, proactive campaign manifesto, "The Seven Year Itch."

But a source said: "This is all to do with finances and nothing to do with the manifesto. There's a huge shortfall; there's less funding coming in. That's what we were told."

Employees suspect the influence of the Enabling Partnership, which now supports RADAR's finance and fundraising but is meant to allow it independence. They questioned whether the arrange-

ment had benefited RADAR.

Specialists in areas such as social services or housing will be replaced by generic campaigns officers with fundraising responsibilities.

Information and regional offices have been scrapped.

Chief executive Kate Nash said the changes reflected members' desires for more proactive campaigning. Specialisms would not be lost because RADAR would get "more skilled-up people".

"There remains a perception that EP is the big brother but we are autonomous."



X rated: electoral commissioner Sir Neil McIntosh (centre) helps Capability Scotland (CS) launch X Marks the Spot*, which describes how voting has been made more accessible for Scottish elections. Also pictured are CS's Grant Douglas (left) and voters Fiona Gemmel and David Tares. * www.vote.org.uk

Planning ahead

Charities are lobbying the government to give "legislative bite" to guidelines on making the planning system for building rules address disability access.

They say the government failed to use a planning bill going through parliament to address outdated access duties. The guidelines tell councils and developers to ensure access is considered when making plans, rather than after they are approved or buildings completed.


But Andrew Shipley, of the Disability Rights Commission, said: "Guidance doesn't have the same force as a bill – planners can think about it and not actually do it."

The government agreed in 1999 to review laws when possible. A government spokesman said the bill was about "process", and disability issues would get lost. "Guidance can give a very clear idea of what government policy is," he said.

Stannah Powerchairs. Your first choice.

24-HOUR LOCAL SERVICE NATIONWIDE

Like our world-famous stairlifts, every Stannah Powerchair is made to the highest standards and is backed by first-class service, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

 **Motability**

CALL 0800 715 463 EXT. 6922
www.stannah.co.uk/active

Please send me a FREE brochure ☐ Please call to arrange my free, no obligation home demonstration ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

Stannah active

Stannah Active, Dept 6922, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR



DN CAMPAIGN



Right on course

A new international aviation agreement will provide higher levels of compensation for people whose wheelchairs are lost or damaged by airlines.

Ann Frye, head of the Department for Transport's (DfT) mobility and inclusion unit, gave the good news to Flight Rights campaigners Anne Begg MP, Phil Friend and Mary Wilkinson in April.

The Montreal Convention, which replaces the Warsaw Convention, will increase the upper limit for compensation "significantly" from November.

The government has been consulting on a new law, due next year, to bring UK airline services and UK registered air-

craft within the Disability Discrimination Act. It could be used if the new voluntary code doesn't work. The DfT is benchmarking airline services and will monitor progress.

Meanwhile, in Europe, a new code of practice to set standards for handling wheelchairs on the ground is due for approval in May, and the European Commission will legislate later this year against charging people for using wheelchairs at airports.

The DfT is also involved with small aircraft design and on-board toilets, and is working with the industry and wheelchair manufacturers on training for baggage handlers and protective covers for wheelchairs.

In brief

Housing landmark

Learning disability charity Mencap and ethical savings and investment bank Triodos have launched a "ground-breaking" solution to the shortage of homes for learning disabled people.

Their Golden Lane Housing bond issue* aims to raise more than £4m to buy homes for people with learning disabilities.

* www.triodos.co.uk

Activist found guilty

A member of the Disabled People's Direct Action Network (DAN), who bit a policeman during a demonstration against charity Leonard Cheshire, was found guilty of actual bodily harm.

Dr Laurence Clark, 28, from Liverpool, was fined £200 and ordered to pay £500 damages by Manchester magistrates. He is appealing.

DAN activist Daryl Marshall, 19, from Preston, is due to appear on 4 August on a charge of criminal damage.

LOOK! AMAZING NEW PRICEGUIDE EXPOSES HUGE PRICE DIFFERENCES

ARE YOU ABOUT TO PAY FAR TOO MUCH FOR A SCOOTER, POWERCHAIR, STAIRLIFT, BATHLIFT, RISER ARMCHAIR, BED OR OTHER MOBILITY PRODUCT?

"No-one should even consider buying a mobility product until they have read this remarkably revealing report and have compared prices"

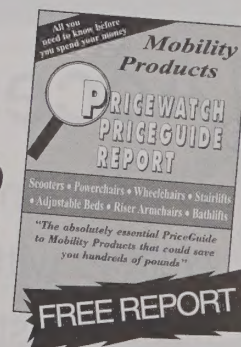
You could end up saving hundreds of pounds with this Brand New Pricewatch PriceGuide from Mobility Matters, a group of independent showroom based distributors.

Incredibly, prices vary substantially depending on where and how you buy and alarmingly, you could end up

paying £100's more for exactly the same product. Don't make the mistake of paying way over the odds unnecessarily.

The new PriceGuide explains what to look out for and provides you with realistic price ranges so you are less likely to get caught out. It's free and it's invaluable.

Call now and your local distributor will send you a copy of the priceguide to help you before you commit yourself.



Call the 24hour request line now on 08705 134130

or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN503, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 1BR

MOBILITY MATTERS NETWORK

Rent row

DN EXCLUSIVE BY JOHN PRING

A newly-wed disabled woman says the sky-high rent charged by a disability charity is preventing her and her husband from buying a place of their own.

Claire Dixon, who has cerebral palsy, and her husband Andrew, pay £205.45 a week for a one-bedroom Leonard Cheshire flat in Marske, Cleveland.

At one stage, their rent was £321.50 a week for the flat in a block opposite a Leonard Cheshire care home, but it was reduced after they complained.

Mrs Dixon says they have to claim housing benefit because the rent is so high, even though her husband works for the Inland Revenue. She claims Leonard Cheshire is "exploiting" her disability and the council is forced to pay the housing benefit because there is no other

suitable accommodation.

The couple want to save for their own home, but any extra income earned by Mr Dixon is clawed back by the council.

Mrs Dixon said: "We just want to be given the same chances as any other young married couple, despite my disability, and above all the chance to live in an affordable, accessible property without being forced to claim unnecessary benefits."

She also says she is angry at the "sub-standard" service they receive from Leonard Cheshire as their landlord and that they had to use a Disabled Facilities Grant to adapt the flat.

Jonathan Giles, Leonard Cheshire regional director, said they took her concerns "very seriously" and apologised for any distress. He said the charity has now commissioned an independent rent evaluation.

Computer solution

A new computer programme could help end inaccurate and illegible medical reports for Disability Living Allowance and Incapacity Benefit (IB) assessments (DN, March).

The system, launched in March by assessments company Schlumberger Sema, allows doctors to key in facts such as a patient's condition or medication and receive a list of possible effects on their daily lives. It then presents the doctor with a conclusion about the patient's need.

It is due to be introduced in the UK by the end of 2004 for IB at medical centres and will eventually allow doctors to fill in forms during home visits and email them to decision makers.

Sema is meeting charities to address the subject. DIAL UK attended its first meeting in April, and said the system was a "step in the right direction".

Job seeker left 'fuming'

A job broker invited a disabled woman who uses a wheelchair to a jobs fair in an inaccessible theatre with no public lift.

Lesley Rowlands, from Rhyl, north Wales, was asked to the event by Broker Cymru, which is paid to find work for disabled people as part of Jobcentre Plus (JP).

Rowlands took copies of her CV to show potential employers at the jobs fair in Rhyl on

20 March, but left after being told there was no public lift.

She told DN: "I was fuming. They said they would get people upstairs down to see me, but it would have put me at a disadvantage."

"There are just barriers all the time that face disabled people. Why was Broker Cymru there if disabled people couldn't get there?"

Sally Price-Sage, Broker

Cymru's business centre manager, said the fair was arranged by JP, which called the theatre in advance to check it was accessible.

"When they got there, they were told there was only a service lift and they had no liability insurance for using it."

"Obviously, there is a lesson to be learned by us, to check ourselves. We are very sorry that she came across this problem."

Not Disabled?
Where you park says
a lot about you



No excuses...
if you don't need it,
don't use it!

ASDA working with



Spaced out: Asda devised this hard-hitting poster that is being placed in every one of its 259 supermarkets in a bid to clamp down on disabled parking bay abuse. A pilot project in Swindon saw shoppers reversing out of disabled spaces after spotting the posters.

Been out lately?

Have you gone on any outings or seen any new sites that would appeal to other DN readers? We're planning our annual, three-month 'Out and about' series and are looking to hear from you. Send your ideas or suggestions to editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



THE NATIONAL TRUST

Access for all

The National Trust welcomes visitors with disabilities to its superb historic buildings, gardens, countryside and coast in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

For a free information booklet giving access details and information please send a 44p stamp to cover postage to:

The National Trust Membership Dept.
PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3XL

email: enquiries@thenationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT YOUR COMPANION



COMPANION

- Ideal for trips to the shopping centre or days out
- Fits most car boots
- Travels up to 10 miles
- FREE home demonstration

freerider
working together

call now on

01536 443888

FREERIDER (UK) LIMITED, FREEPOST MID 16985,
CORBY, NORTHANTS NN17 4BR

web site: www.freerider.co.uk

In brief

DRC new face

Susan Daniels, who is chief executive of the National Children's Society and profoundly deaf, has been appointed to the Disability Rights Commission. She joins four re-appointed members on the 15-strong committee.

Sex abuse sentence

Care staff who have sex with learning disabled or "mentally disordered" clients will face up to 14 years in prison, after an amendment to the sexual offences bill. Campaigners said the planned seven year maximum sentence was too lenient.

Morgan joins LA

The Limbless Association (LA) has appointed Diana Morgan as its new chief executive officer. Morgan, who lost both legs in a train accident in 1990, was an LA trustee.

Beeb boobs – again



The BBC has been criticised for allowing another performer to tell an offensive "joke" targeting disabled people.

A stand-up comedian on BBC2's *Live Floor Show* said: "My mother was a spastic and my father was an otter. I'm no good at doing anything, but I'm happy as ****."

In response to a complaint, the BBC said the series was "anarchic" and satirical.

A spokesman said the show's producer felt the "surreal"

nature of the routine meant the material was "acceptable".

But he added: "In hindsight, the wrong decision was made and the BBC regrets causing offence. We take all complaints very seriously and the guidelines [on representing disabled people] are under constant review."

A Scope spokesman called on the BBC to stop making disabled people "the subject of offensive jokes which are no longer made about other minority groups".

Scope for change

Trustees and employees of the UK's biggest disability charity have been told that it punches below its weight and must change to survive.

Scope, which has an annual turnover of about £94m and celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, is also facing "a mid-life identity crisis", according to its new chief executive, Tony Manwaring (right), because it cannot decide whether it is for people with cerebral palsy or all disabled people. He says he was alerted to this by staff.

While acknowledging that Scope does many things right, like campaigning and providing



information and services to disabled people and their families, Manwaring has pinpointed key weaknesses. Among them are a "can't do culture", uneven strategic leadership, inflexible planning, too few disabled staff and managers, and loss of the passion that inspired Scope's founders.

"For us to survive, for us to be a player in the future, we need to change," he told London staff in April, at one of five meetings he has held around the country.

He has proposed a new description of who Scope is for ("Scope – about cp; for disabled people"), inviting online discussion.

He is also consulting on a diversity action plan (see page 17), discussing a "new deal" between trustees and senior managers, and planning a strategy review.

"Tony's ideas have the potential to bring us a new sense of purpose," said Scope's chairman, Gerald McCarthy.

"We now have the people in place to rejuvenate Scope and regain its place among the UK's leading disability charities."

Mixed budget for long-term sick

Rules that cut the benefits of people spending long periods in hospital will be relaxed, Chancellor Gordon Brown announced in his April Budget.

The move was welcomed by campaigners, but they were also "deeply disappointed" at his decision to exclude disability living allowance (DLA), attendance allowance (AA) and carers' allowance (CA).

A person can now stay in

hospital for 52 weeks without losing part of benefits such as pensions, incapacity benefit (IB), severe disablement benefit and income support. Before, these were cut after six weeks.

Lorna Reith, chief executive of Disability Alliance (DA)*, which campaigns on disability and poverty, said: "It will make life a lot easier for a lot of people."

"It is a sensible recognition

that people's costs do not automatically go down if they are in hospital."

But she said DA was "deeply disappointed" that the government did not include DLA, AA and CA, which will still be reduced after four weeks.

A government spokesman said these benefits were "needs-based" and the necessary support provided by the hospital.

*www.disabilityalliance.org

Versa®

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

STYLE, COMFORT, CONVENIENCE
AND SAFETY MAKES OUR
VERSA FAMILY RANGE
THE BENCHMARK OF QUALITY...

ALL OUR VEHICLES ARE
SUPERBLY EQUIPPED, BACKED
WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL BUILD
QUALITY THAT WILL GIVE YOU
PEACE OF MIND.

OPEN DAY SUNDAY MAY 11th
Offering **SPECIAL DEALS** on
New & Used Vehicles if they are
ordered on that day or at the
NAIDEX SHOW (STAND 970) on
MAY 13th -15th at Birmingham

 **Motability**
The leading car scheme for disabled people

UNIQUE
TO

WIDNES
CAR CENTRE

THESE ARE JUST A SELECTION OF OUR FINE QUALITY USED VEHICLES

MAKE/MODEL	REG NO.	COLOUR	SPECIFICATION	MILEAGE	£
New Renault Trafic 1.9 Diesel Versa	PJ02 VJX	Blue	4 seats, ramp, solo system	1,300	13,495
Renault Kangoo 1.4 Petrol Auto	W985 LBL	Red	Drop floor	4,000	9,595
Nissan Vanette Versa 2.3 Diesel	N879 BHF	Red	4 seats, tail lift	56,000	4,995
Nissan Vanette Versa 2.3 Diesel	W233 DKC	Red	4 seats, ramp	6,000	8,995
Nissan Vanette Versa 2.3 Diesel	W249 DKC	Red	4 seats, ramp	13,000	8,995
Toyota HiAce 2.4 Diesel	V553 MLG	Blue	4 seats, ramp	17,000	9,995
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	V790 HDT	Blue	4 seats, tail lift	39,000	9,795
VW 800 1.9 Turbo Diesel Versa	W263 WAK	Blue	4 seats, ramp	30,000	9,795
VW 800 2.5 Turbo Diesel Versa	OY02 WXC	Blue	4 seats, ramp, winch	22,000	11,995
Citroen Dispatch 1.9 Diesel	W42 PGC	Red	5 seats, ramp, winch	25,000	10,495

• ALL VEHICLES ARE PREPARED AND VALETED • 6 MONTHS WARRANTY
• ALL SECURING EQUIPMENT INCLUDED



ALL PRICES ASSUME VAT AND ROAD FUND LICENSE ZERO RATING. VW & MERCEDES ARE AVAILABLE AS AUTOMATICS. *(LVTA)-LOW VOLUME TYPE APPROVED

MERCEDES BENZ VITO
2.1 turbo diesel 2.0 petrol
£16,795 £16,945
on the road on the road

TOYOTA HIACE* (LVTA)
2.5 C.D.I. turbo diesel
£15,250
on the road

RENAULT MASTER* (LVTA)
2.2 D.C.I. turbo diesel
£16,500
on the road

VW888 SPECIAL* (LVTA)
2.5 turbo diesel
£14,950
on the road

RENAULT TRAFIC
1.9 D.C.I. diesel
£14,750
on the road

For further information, FREE Brochure
pack or to arrange a demonstration
please contact Philip Beecham
or Mike Jones (New Versa Enquiries),
Phil Hawkins (Used Versa Specialist).

VERSA SALES 0151 420 2000

Widnes Car Centre Limited, Moor Lane, Widnes Cheshire WA8 7AL.

FAX: 0151 495 1382

website: www.wheelchair-access.co.uk
e-mail: versa@wheelchair-access.co.uk

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00am - 5.30pm



E & OE



New breed of assistant

Rosie, a miniature Shetland pony, is set to be the star of this year's Mobility Roadshow*.

Miniature guide horses like Rosie are popular in the United States as alternatives to assistance dogs for disabled people.

Now Mobility Warehouse (MW) is set to introduce them in this country and launch its own UK breeding programme.

Rosie, who is 27 inches high, is being trained to pull a wheelchair, enter taxis and buses, and use lifts and escalators.

Miniature horses are said to

be calm in chaotic situations and remember commands for years.

Rosie, pictured during a training exercise with Josh Brown, 12, from Nottingham, who is blind, will be displaying her skills at the free roadshow.

More than 180 other exhibitors will also be displaying products, information and advice for people with mobility impairments.

*June 12 to 14, at Donington Park, near Derby. Tel: 0870 770 3222 or visit www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow

Diverse but not disabled

Government plans to set up a new body to regulate fair access to university have made no mention of disabled students.

Education secretary Charles Clarke announced last month that the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) will ensure universities which want to charge top-up fees are working to widen participation of students from poorer backgrounds.

But disabled students' charity Skill criticised the failure to mention disabled students, and called on the government to widen the proposals.

New Higher Education Statistics Agency figures published on the same day as the OFFA plans revealed a "disappointing" rise of just 0.55 per cent in the number of disabled



people in higher education between 2001 and 2002.

Skill chief executive Barbara Waters (above) said students who attended special schools or had their education interrupted by disability could receive grades which did not reflect their ability in the same way as those from poorer backgrounds

or low-achieving schools.

She said: "It will be a terrible missed opportunity if disabled people are not included in this huge drive to include people from diverse backgrounds."

A government spokeswoman said discrimination against disabled students was unlawful under SENDA.

But she was unable to say whether a taskforce set up to identify good practice in university admissions ahead of OFFA's launch would look at the barriers disabled students faced.

Meanwhile, Edinburgh University has said it is changing its admissions procedures to take students' disabilities, as well as other factors such as school and family background, into account.

Sacking threat 'totally unfair'

A partially sighted employee developed back pain because she had to lean forward to see her computer screen – and was then threatened with the sack for taking sick leave.

Housing association Circle 33, which also runs home improvement agencies to help disabled people adapt their homes, employed Elena Langan for nine months without properly installing the speech programme she needed to use the company database.

It repeatedly extended her

probation period, claiming it had not had a chance to monitor her work properly.

Langan, a telephone advisor for the company's Islington branch, said the treatment was "totally unfair".

"They agreed to get the programme in June but I waited six months to see it on my desk," she said.

"It was installed in January but wasn't working properly so I started taking calls but had to lean forward to see the screen.

"It led to back problems

which caused me to go off sick three weeks ago and I'm not being paid."

She also said she had failed an assessment because it was not written in large print.

Circle 33 said it was considering dismissing Langan because she exceeded her entitlement to paid sick leave, failed to meet call targets, and discussed her concerns with DN, contrary to guidelines.

It said delays in installing her equipment had been beyond its control.

Look the world in the eye...

9 March Place, Gatehouse Way,
Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8UA,
T: 0800 220 975, F: 01296 380 279

F1 Dundonald Enterprise Park, Carrowreagh Road,
Dundonald, Belfast BT16 1QT,
T: 028 9093 9000, F: 028 9093 9016

E: levo@gerald-simonds.co.uk
W: www.gerald-simonds.co.uk



...with a LEVO[®] stand-up wheelchair

The social and practical benefits of being able to stand up at will are many and varied.

There are medical benefits too. Standing up can alleviate pressure, improve bladder and bowel function, enhance respiration, reduce muscle atrophy, relieve abdominal and back pain.

And it is a lot cheaper to buy a stand-up wheelchair than refit a kitchen, let alone the house or workplace!

Levo stand-up wheelchairs are portable, plain or brightly coloured and are available in a variety of powered and non-powered configurations.

Call now for a **FREE** information pack or to arrange a demonstration



0800 220 975

In brief

More sport for free

A charity that offers sports and activities to people with paralysis is extending its free sessions.

The Charity Commission has given Sportability permission to provide free sessions for people with multiple sclerosis and stroke.

Previously, charity law meant it could only waive charges for people with spinal cord injury.

Correction

In last month's *DN Wise up to work* supplement, two sets of figures in our employment survey were mistakenly transposed.

Centrica should have been reported as having 36,000 employees and being unable to say how many of them are disabled.

Camelot group has 894 employees, of whom one per cent are disabled.



Brent council loses the plot

An elderly disabled couple who applied for a disabled parking bay have been told they should concrete over their tiny front garden instead.

Edwin Higgs, 79, and wife Margaret, 80 (*left, with Lib Dem councillor Paul Lorber*), are among 85 per cent of applicants turned down for disabled bays by Brent council in London.

The council's "very strict" eligibility criteria means disabled people with front gardens are being told they do not need a parking bay.

Mr Higgs said the rules were "dotty".

"Even if I could afford what they're requesting, which I can't, they've still got to give me a space to get the car out, so

why can't they give me a bay? I've lived in Brent since 1934. It's not right."

Lib Dem councillor Daniel Brown said the policy could contravene the Disability Discrimination Act.

A Brent spokeswoman said guidelines had to be strict because of the shortage of parking spaces locally.

RNID axes conference

The UK's largest charity for deaf people has cancelled a prestigious annual conference because of financial problems that have already led to job cuts.

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said it had taken the decision with "extreme reluctance".

Last November, *Breaking the Sound Barrier* attracted more than 5,000 visitors, and speakers included Oscar-winning film producer Lord Puttnam.

But Brian Lamb, RNID's director of communications, said the charity could not afford the annual subsidy of at least £60,000.

He said: "There will be a *Breaking the Sound Barrier* or something very similar in the future, but it will probably not be done in the same way."

RNID has been hit hard by the stock market downturn and is making up to 20 staff redundant (*DN April*).

But it has pledged not to cut services for deaf people.

European sign boost

European politicians have taken a "major step forward" towards the legal recognition of sign languages across the continent.

Members of the Council of Europe's (COE) Parliamentary Assembly adopted a report by Liberal Democrat MP Malcolm Bruce calling for European sign languages to have the same legal protection under the European Charter as regional and minority spoken languages.

It will go to the COE's committee of ministers, representing 44 European countries.

Jo Barber, of the British Deaf Association, said: "This is a major step forward for the deaf community, but it is only the start of the process."

The report's adoption came only days after the British government announced it was to recognise British Sign Language as an official language.



a vision to *succeed...*

...is a mix of your determination, your *ambition* and your *attitude* of mind.

Its about doing what you want and going where you want.

Through *advanced* technology, a focus on detailed design and a style all of its own, Kuscall can take you there....

For information on the range of Kuscall chairs including the new Champion, call

01656 753262

Kuscall, proud sponsor of the Glenn Shaw 2003 Everest Expedition
Visit www.GlennShaw.com for details



kuschall®
designed for life

www.kuscall.com

Letter from Brussels

Richard Howitt



Emerging television and phone technologies will change the way we live – but they must be accessible



While we all welcome the development of electronic communication, members of the European Parliament (EP) are closely monitoring access to this new technology for disabled people.

The EP recognises that disabled people need to participate fully in the new technologies and gain the many benefits from their use. A resolution on mobile phones, adopted in February, calls for an action plan to promote universal design in the 3G sector and technical specifications to ensure access.

MEPs also recognise that disabled and older people are at risk of double discrimination if they are excluded from the information society. Another resolution, also adopted in February, calls for the European Commission's (EC) e-Europe 2005 plan to give particular attention to electronic communications. It calls on member states to develop adequate subtitling and audio description so as to ensure access to digital television.

Richard Howitt MEP is president of the European Parliament All-Party Disability Group, e-mail: ep@edf-feph.org

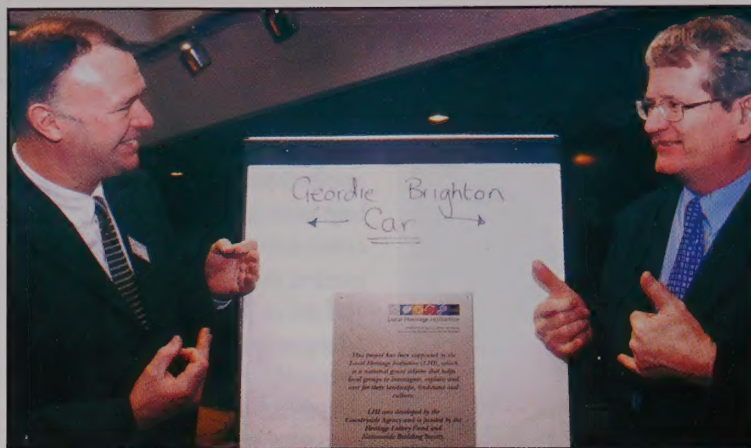
In May and June, the EP will discuss and draw up a report on *TV Without Frontiers*, which offers another opportunity for the European Disability Intergroup to lobby on behalf of disabled people.

The EC has also set up a working group to ensure that all EU member states implement the package of telecommunication directives adopted in 2001, including requiring operators to make their services fully accessible for disabled people.

New technologies can offer real benefits, but there needs to be a European-wide legal framework that ensures manufacturers build in accessible design and access features.

Disability organisations across Europe are campaigning for a European Union disability specific directive that would cover access to goods and services.

The Disability Intergroup is fully behind this campaign. I hope the 2003 European Year of Persons with Disabilities will generate the political momentum for the campaign to become a reality.



Sign of the times: Keith Reed (left) and David Jackson illustrate signs in different regional dialects for the word car. Both are taking part in a project organised by North Tyneside group On The Way to compile a detailed record of the region's "disappearing" signs.

DN CAMPAIGN



New dope hopes

Rapid advances in the understanding of cannabis-based drugs is revealing a growing number of conditions that they might be used to treat, according to a leading researcher.

Dr John Zajicek told a meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine that he was about to start research on using such medicines to treat advanced Parkinson's disease.

And he said other potential uses included the treatment of head injury and conditions such as Tourette's syndrome, epilepsy and Alzheimer's.

Dr Zajicek, one of the principal investigators in the Cannabinoids in Multiple Sclerosis (CAMS) trial in Plymouth, said the team hoped

to publish its results in July.

But they have already noted the improved quality of life of some people with MS who used the drugs during the study.

"There has been some anecdotal evidence to suggest they have benefited dramatically and their quality of life has improved. I think we are in a very exciting time," he said.

And none of the patients who took part in the trial had developed any signs of psychosis, a concern when he began work on the study.

Meanwhile, the company GW Pharmaceuticals has delivered a dossier of results on trials of a drug to help MS symptoms to the Medicines Control Agency.

'Good start', but there's more to do

The Department of Health believes it has made a "good start" on implementing its learning disability white paper, even though it admits the government as a whole is not taking the issue seriously enough.

Health Minister Jacqui Smith said more money was being spent on advocacy, more learning disabled people had jobs and more received direct payments since the publication of the *Valuing People* (VP) white paper in March 2001.

She was commenting on *Making Change Happen**, which describes progress in implementing VP and is the first government report written in accessible language.

The report pledged to encourage other areas of government to take VP more seriously, and acknowledged that learning disability partnership boards were not working closely enough with learning disabled people.

It also said the government had given councils more money to spend on social services.

Michelle Chinery, co-chair of the taskforce which produced the report, who has a learning disability herself, said: "The taskforce welcomes the report and we are pleased to see the government acknowledge that there is still a lot to be done in valuing people."

*www.doh.gov.uk/learningdisability

WHETHER AT HOME OR AT WORK
BE HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST

With the

Mangar Freestyle 2000



A Compact Powered Indoor-Outdoor Wheelchair with an **ELEVATING SEAT** providing complete independence.

Can also be used as a standing aid.



Mangar
INTERNATIONAL

An effortless way to get to the top!

I would like a Free Brochure ☐

A Free Demonstration ☐

Name DN05/03

Address

Tel: No. Fax: No.

Contact: Sales Dept. **Mangar International**, Presteigne,
Powys, Wales, U.K. LD8 2UF Tel: (01544) 267674 Fax: (01544) 260287
email: sales@mangar.co.uk website: www.mangar.co.uk



www.directenquiries.com
THE NATIONWIDE DISABLED ACCESS REGISTER

Would you like to know which businesses provide the access and facilities that you require, before you leave your house?

Do you wish that you could communicate easily with the head offices of business regarding the facilities that are provided within a particular location?

Would you like to know when a business changes facilities or access within a location that you regularly visit?



Direct Enquiries has been developed to provide a platform to allow businesses and users to share information.

The aim of Direct Enquiries is to help liberate people with disabilities, as well as their families, friends and carers.

Registration to Direct Enquiries is FREE for users.

Direct Enquiries is a new service that will grow rapidly over the coming months.

For more information:

Tel: 01344 393018. E-mail: info@directenquiries.com

In brief

Autism guidelines

The National Initiative for Autism: Screening and Assessment has published new guidelines for professionals* who work with children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD).

Recommendations in the National Autism Plan for Children include ASD awareness training for all community-based staff working with children.

*www.nas.org.uk/niasa.html

TUC backs equality

The TUC is asking members to sign a petition calling for the government to introduce a new law providing equal rights for disabled people.

Following the government's recent announcement of a new disability bill, the TUC is urging it to begin consultation to ensure the law is in force no later than 2004.

News review

A round-up of news in the mainstream media from the last few weeks

Embryo screen OK

The parents of four-year-old Zain Hasmi, who has the rare blood disorder thalassaemia, won a court battle for the right to screen embryos using IVF technology to match his tissue type.

They now hope to have a baby whose umbilical cord cells can be transplanted into Zain to treat his condition.

Protein progress

Patients with advanced Parkinson's disease showed "remarkable" improvements after scientists at the University of Wisconsin injected the protein GDNF into their brains. The results, reported in *Nature Science*, included a 39 per cent improvement in motor skills and a 61 per cent improvement in executing daily tasks.

Inquiry stopped

An inquiry into the group of anti-depressants known as SSRIs, which includes Prozac, was halted by the Medicines Control Agency after concerns about its members' links with the drugs industry.

The review, announced in December, followed concerns about withdrawal effects.

Unfair care

The Health Ombudsman received nearly 2,000 letters from people concerned that they or their relatives may have been unfairly forced to pay for continuing care.

The complaints follow the ombudsman's report in February upholding cases against four health authorities that wrongly told people they were not eligible for NHS funding.

It concluded that Department of Health guidance on continuing care had been misapplied by some health authorities and trusts.

Botox benefit

American researchers found further evidence of the beneficial effects of Botox injections for children with cerebral palsy. Botulinum Toxin A blocks signals from the nerves to the muscles, reducing tightness and assisting movement.

Cerebral palsy charity Scope said access to the treatment was still a "post-code lottery" in this country.

Hazards remain

Blind and visually impaired people face hazards from cars and branches while out walking, according to a new survey.

Of 100 guide dog owners surveyed by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 87 per cent worried about overgrown hedges and low hanging branches. And 81 per cent cited cars parked on pavements.

The survey is part of the

charity's Safer Streets campaign, which encourages town planners, retailers and the public to consider the needs of blind and visually impaired pedestrians.

Derek Thorpe, fundraising manager for the charity, said: "It is frustrating that despite the efforts and support of utility companies and nearly a third of local authorities in 2002, many street hazards remain."



Ultimate performer...

The **Xterra GT** is a high performance mid-wheel drive power chair that has it all – unmatched styling, speed, manoeuvrability and power.

Suited for indoor as well as outdoor use, the Xterra GT gives a top speed of 7.5mph. With 80% of the user weight over the drive wheels and an impressively high torque, the Xterra GT effortlessly negotiates rough terrain and condensed spaces. The overall result being, a highly durable chair with unrivalled manoeuvrability.

The Xterra GT is undoubtedly a choice for those looking for high performance and hot styling.

- High performance
- Hot styling
- Unrivalled manoeuvrability



Xterra
SURE STEP **GT**

if you are looking for a chair with all round performance, call

01656 753262



BRITAIN'S BEST VALUE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

TECHNICAL SUPPORT 7 DAYS A WEEK. FREE 5 YEAR UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY

PEUGEOT EUROBUS 8/9 SEATER 2.0HDI

FROM **£13,995** PLUS VAT FROM **£67.50** PER WEEK*

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

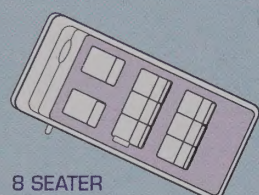
- FULL WHEELCHAIR minibus with M1 specification (VCA approved) • Europe's best selling diesel engine • Up to 52 mpg • Electric heated & adjustable mirrors • Height adjustable steering wheel • Height adjustable pretensioner seatbelts • Remote central locking • Driver's airbag • Remote radio control • Heated rear windows • Tinted glass all round • High level brake light

VARIOUS SEATING OPTIONS **PLUS** ALL MIDDLE ROW SEATS TIP FOR EASE OF ACCESS TO REAR SEATS

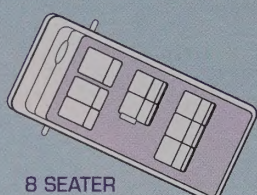


APR **9.84%**

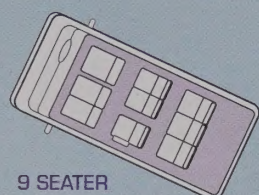
NO DEPOSIT, 60 months at £290.40, weekly equivalent £67.01, Total Amount payable £17423.78 (incl. Administration Charges, payable with first and last payment) *Presuming exemption from VAT & Road Tax



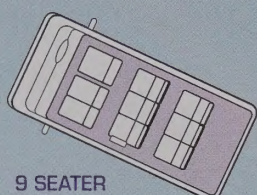
8 SEATER



8 SEATER



9 SEATER



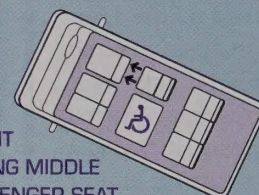
9 SEATER

NOW AVAILABLE

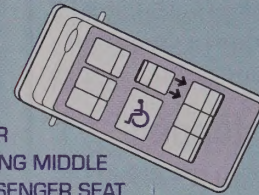
FULLY WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SEATING - STANDARD

- Triple rear seat all with lap and diagonal seatbelts
- Triple middle seats with 60/40 split option
 - Fully removable middle row
- Single front seat with double passenger seat option • Full wheelchair restraints fitted
- Full lap and diagonal seatbelt for wheelchair use



FRONT
FACING MIDDLE
PASSENGER SEAT



REAR
FACING MIDDLE
PASSENGER SEAT

NEW FIAT FREEDOM

FROM **£10,495** PLUS VAT FROM **£49.99** PER WEEK*

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- 4 Point wheelchair restraint system or Koller system • Integral wheelchair 3 point with upper torso restraint belt • Remote control operated wheelchair winch system • 1 piece detachable folding rear ramp • Maintains original floor structure integrity • 60/40 rear seating arrangement (double or single) • Rear entry for wheelchairs • Increased driver/passenger headroom



* Vehicle shown is 1.9 JTD ELX model.
* Price shown is for 1.9 SX model.

APR **10.02%**

OPTIONAL EXTRAS INCLUDE:

- ABS • Heated electric door mirrors • Rear mudflaps • Metallic paint • Radio with single slot CD • Telephone predisposition • Front seat side airbags • Reverse parking sensor • Connect Nav +



PLUS JUST LOOK AT THESE STANDARD FEATURES ON THE 1.9 JTD ELX MODEL:

- Remote central locking • Height-adjustable steering wheel • Twin rear sliding doors • Body coloured bumpers • Front foglights • Radio cassette • Electric front windows • Driver & passenger airbags • Air conditioning • 14" Alloy wheels • Rear fixed head restraints

NO DEPOSIT, 60 months at £213.82, weekly equivalent £48.30, Total Amount payable £12977.20 (incl. Administration Charges, payable with first and last payment) *Presuming exemption from VAT & Road Tax

FREE 5 YEAR
unlimited mileage warranty on ALL vehicles



Allied Vehicles

www.alliedvehicles.com Email: sales@alliedvehicles.com

BRITAIN'S No.1 MINIBUS SUPPLIER

CALL OUR SALES TEAM NOW ON **0800 587 9656**

Mental health bill rushed

Scotland's new mental health bill has been passed by the national executive amid criticism that it was rushed through parliament.

The bill, due to come into effect in October 2004, has been broadly welcomed by mental health charities as an improvement on existing legislation.

It places responsibility for decisions on compulsory treatment in the hands of tribunals for the first time, as well as giving people placed under unnecessary security a right to appeal. It also guarantees a right to advocacy services.

But charities say the large number of last-minute amendments tabled – 1,400 in total – meant that MSPs and disability organisations did not have a chance to properly monitor the implications of the changes.

Richard Norris, of the Scottish Association for Mental Health, said there had been "missed opportunities" in terms of protecting the rights of service users.

These included a lack of safeguards to limit the use of new "community treatment orders" which can compel people to undergo treatment in the community, and no absolute prohibition of administering Electro Convulsive Therapy against a patient's wishes.

While patients will be able to give advance statements to specify their future treatment, these had not been given enough weight under the law, he said.

In contrast to international guidelines, the law also allows neurosurgery to be carried out on "incapable" patients as long as they don't resist treatment.

Treat yourself and help DN!

Thanks to a new partnership between DN and the website www.buy.at you can now shop on the internet and help us raise money at the same time. Simply visit the shopping website www.buy.at/disabilitynow and when you make a purchase, DN receives a small commission.

Retailers include Marks and Spencer, Amazon, Comet, Blackwell's, Virgin Mobile, Oddbins, RAC and CD Wow!.



Welsh worries

The disability movement in Wales has been thrown into controversy over plans to ensure its main umbrella organisation is controlled by disabled people.

Disability Wales (DW) says the changes are needed to give credibility to the movement and bring it up to date with the social model of disability.

Members will vote this month on plans to ensure all voting member groups are majority-controlled by disabled people, and that the DW executive committee and its chief executive are disabled.

But DW "roadshows" organised to discuss the idea with local groups have seen heated arguments about what many see as a threat to their support base.

Charles Peck, Welsh regional secretary of the British Polio Fellowship, said groups should not be "kicking the able-bodied in the face" but "getting them onside and letting them help us fight injustice".

He said many groups would not be able to carry on campaigning without able-bodied voting members.

DW chief executive Rhian Davis said she was aware some member groups were strongly against the changes, but equally many felt that they were long overdue. The Welsh Assembly had already adopted the social model and the equality agenda in Wales needed updating to match the rest of the UK, she said.



Mover and shaker: Sophie, Countess of Wessex, meets three-year-old Lethisiya Sri Ranjan and mum Lakshmi at the Wandsworth Service for Hearing Impaired Children. The Countess became a trustee of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, which runs the service, in March.



DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING FROM ACCESS MADE EASY

In October 2004, Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act comes into force which means that your organisation's premises, facilities and services will have to be accessible to disabled people.

But if the idea of meeting this challenge is giving you sleepless nights, don't despair! Informative and friendly help is available from **Access Made Easy (AME)**.

AME is a disability consultancy which was set up in January 2000 to undertake Access to Work assessments for Jobcentreplus and to provide disability awareness training to the public, private and voluntary sectors. The company's 2 founding partners, Andy Taylor and Tom O'Sullivan are both visually impaired and between them, have notched up over 20 years' experience of working on the frontline with disabled clients.

Whatever your concerns are over complying with the DDA – whether it's employment or making your services and premises accessible – Andy and Tom will be able to offer your organisation constructive and practical advice.

Access Made Easy understands the anxiety that new legislation like the DDA can cause, so to allay your fears, **AME** is offering Disability Awareness Training Courses at very competitive rates. Andy Taylor and Tom O'Sullivan will lead the sessions which will last either a full or half day and their aim is to provide you with a full understanding of your obligations under the Act and to give you workable solutions.

Other services available from **AME** include Information Technology/Access Technology training, Audio & Braille Transcription and Employment Assessments.

To find out more, please phone either Andy or Tom on 0208 507 8841 or alternatively, visit the **Access Made Easy** website at www.accessmadeeasy.co.uk

In brief

BSL news gets wired

The world's first daily news bulletin in British Sign Language has been launched on the internet. The service, from Tyne Tees Television, covers news in the North East of England and is delivered by deaf on-screen presenters. www.signpostbsl.com

Bus fare boon

Disabled and elderly people in Wales will be able to get half-price fares on some long-distance bus and coach services from May.

The Welsh Assembly is offering grants to bus companies who participate in the voluntary scheme.

Free concessionary travel is already available on local bus services.

The national

home healthcare exhibition for the disabled, the elderly & healthcare professionals

Incorporating the **UK's leading paediatric exhibition** for children with special needs

13-15 May 2003
NEC Birmingham

Naidex & KideQuip

www.naidex.co.uk

- Meet over **250** leading suppliers of rehabilitation products and services face-to-face
- Test and compare **100's** of the latest products for yourself
- Attend **free public information sessions** covering a wide range of useful topics
- Visit the **New Product Showcase** where the latest product innovations will be on display
- Join in the fun at **KideQuip** - the area at Naidex dedicated to providing children with special needs with invaluable aids for daily living

DN

Organised by

emap healthcare

In Association with

Therapy **BHTA**

Supported by

Disability Living Foundation

For your free tickets:

CALL THE HOTLINE: 0870 429 4428

FAX: 0870 429 4429

or Pre-register in advance at www.naidex.co.uk

ENTRY IS FREE

A NICE welcome

Campaigners have welcomed the decision by the government's health advisory body to produce guidance on the use of powerful anti-psychotic drugs in treating people with dementia.

The Alzheimer's Society (AS) and others have been campaigning for years to clamp down on overuse of such medicines.

Julia Cream, head of public affairs for AS, said she was "really pleased" at the decision, although it is not yet known when the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) will start work on the guidelines

on managing dementia.

Cream said: "There is a really high level of inappropriate prescription, particularly for people with dementia in care homes."

Last year, the Liberal Democrats published a report suggesting that more than 80,000 people in nursing and care homes are kept sedated with anti-psychotic drugs for no good medical reason (*DN, February 2002*).

Cream said she hopes bodies like the National Care Standards Commission will use the guidance as part of inspections.

AS also welcomed the news that NICE will look at the drug Ebixa for severe Alzheimer's, and at three other drugs to treat non-Alzheimer's dementia, also as part of its new "forward work programme".

Once drugs are approved by NICE, health authorities should fund them.

Other topics the Secretary of State for Health and the Welsh Assembly have asked NICE to look at include the use of the drug Xolair for uncontrolled asthma and the management of manic depression.

NHS comes up short for third of people with MS

Nearly one in three members of a multiple sclerosis charity are unhappy with the healthcare provided by the NHS, according to a new survey.

The MORI poll of 3,000 members of the Multiple Sclerosis Society (MSS) also found that nearly half of those diagnosed in the last three years were not satisfied with the support they received at the time.

Mike O'Donovan, MSS chief executive, said: "In June, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence is due to publish

guidelines for MS healthcare. Our survey shows just how far standards of care are falling short."

There have been some improvements since an MSS poll in 1999, including the fact that the proportion of people able to see a specialist nurse in the month after diagnosis has risen from eight to 29 per cent.

The Department of Health welcomed the report and said that initiatives to improve services included the National Service Framework for Long

Term Conditions, the risk sharing scheme for prescribing beta interferon and NICE guidelines.

The findings were released as the society began MS Week, in its 50th anniversary year.

Meanwhile, the Multiple Sclerosis Trust welcomed a small study by the University Department of Neurosciences in Turin which showed people with relapsing-remitting MS did better on high-frequency, high-dose regimes of the drug beta interferon than on lower frequency, lower doses.



Limb appeal: the Limbless Association has launched the ALI fund* to pay for rehabilitation and prostheses for Iraqi children who have lost limbs during the war. It is named after 12-year-old Ali Ismail Abbas, who lost both his arms in an American missile attack on Baghdad.

*Tel 020 8788 1777 or visit www.justgiving.com/alifund

Epilepsy treatment shows signs of promise

A disability charity says reports of a promising new epilepsy treatment could prove to be good news for people with the condition.

A conference in Florida heard that initial tests on the new drug, currently known only as ucb 34714, show it to be "at least ten times more potent" than existing medication in reducing the severity and duration of seizures.

The pharmaceutical company UCB Pharma, which is developing the treatment, said the research "potentially signals the discovery of a breakthrough therapy".

Ucb 34714, which is derived from the same chemical family as UCB Pharma's anti-epilepsy drug Levetiracetam, is undergoing clinical trials.

A spokeswoman for Epilepsy Action, said: "We will be monitoring the development of this drug with interest."

"If it turns out that this does prove to be more effective, that can only be good news for people with epilepsy."

"Seizure control is a very important issue for people with epilepsy in terms of reducing the number of epilepsy-related deaths and sheer quality of life for people with epilepsy."



GENIE



Good health demands that everyone should stand up, preventing bladder problems and assisting with better circulation, digestion, bone development and pressure management. The versatile Genie also assists carers by alleviating unnecessary lifting.

INDEPENDENCE

VERTICAL MOBILITY

POSTURE CONTROL

MOVEMENT

QUALITY OF LIFE

EASY TOILETING

BETTER HEALTH

CARE REDUCED

The Genie - Ingenious!

Further information from
Easy Care Products Limited.
Park Lane, Old Park, Telford, TF3 4TE.
Fax: 01952 616588

easy care

CE

NOW SUCCESSFULLY
CRASH TESTED

01952 610300

www.charleswarnermobility.co.uk

www.charleswarnerconversions.co.uk

Charles Warner
 Lincoln 01522 806200 DAIHATSU




Charles Warner Are Leading Vehicle Conversion Specialists in Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles and Minibuses. All Designed To Customer Specification, On Any New Or Used Vehicle Of Any Make.



The CHARLES WARNER HIJET conversions offer maximum versatility in this popular compact vehicle and can be tailor-made for every requirement.

The HIJET now also comes with 3 years free servicing, warranty and roadside assistance for all round economical motoring.

As one of the country's largest DAIHATSU dealers with our own body conversion workshops, we can supply a quality vehicle nationwide - distance no object.

Prices from as little as £7695 with VAT & road tax exemption.

www.charleswarnermobility.co.uk

www.charleswarnerconversions.co.uk



On the ball: Everton captain Steve Johnson (*above*) led his team to victory against Manchester AFC in the final of the first National Amputee Football Cup, in which ten teams took part. The FA plans to set up a national amputee football league next season.

Footie pull out

Britain has had to pull out of hosting the 2003 European Deaf Football Championships because of a funding foul-up.

The championships were due to be held in Sheffield in June but will now be held in Malaga, Spain.

Britain's team are now unable to take part because their original qualification as host nation no longer applies.

The British Deaf Sports Council (BDSC), which was organising the event, said in a statement on its website that it was led to believe UK Sport would provide funding. No-one from BDSC was available to comment further.

But a spokesman for UK Sport said the BDSC approached

them at a very late stage. "We recommend people apply from the outset, not while it has got underway."

He said BDSC also asked them to provide 95 per cent of the funding. He added that UK Sport also had a number of concerns about the ability of the BDSC to run the event.

The British Deaf Association (BDA) said it was only asked to help BDSC after UK Sport rejected the funding application, but it could have helped secure sponsorship if approached earlier.

BDA chief executive Jeff McWhinney said: "Unfortunately, the British Deaf Sports Council did not think our involvement was necessary."

Britain takes doubles

A British men's doubles win in the quadriplegic tournament topped a series of impressive runs at the Florida Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships.

British second seeds Mark Eccleston and Peter Norfolk won the doubles tournament after beating American top seeds Rick Draney and David Wagner 6-0, 6-1.

But Eccleston will lose the world number one ranking he has held since February 2002, after losing to Norfolk in the quarter-finals of the singles.

Meanwhile, British number one Jayant Mistry lost 6-4, 4-6, 4-6 to fifth seed Stephen Welch of the United States in the men's singles semi-final in the main wheelchair event.

And in the men's doubles final, British number two Simon Hatt paired up with Welch, but lost to top seeds Robin Ammerlaan of the Netherlands and Martin Legner of Austria.

• The National Wheelchair Tennis Championships take place in Gloucester between 2 and 5 May.

Games move welcomed

Learning disabled athletes will be allowed to compete in some "exhibition" events at the 2004 Paralympic Games, but will not be awarded medals.

The International Paralympic Committee banned athletes with learning disabilities after cheating occurred at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics (*DN* January).

An IPC spokeswoman said the events will allow it to work with the International Sports

Federation for People with an Intellectual Disability and test new eligibility criteria.

As *DN* went to press, the specific events had not yet been decided.

Geoff Smedley, chief executive of the United Kingdom Sports Association for People with a Learning Disability, said: "I think it's a very positive move. It's an improvement on nothing."

The *DN* survey results could not be in this issue, because of lack of space. But they will be in next month. Thank you to all readers, 13 per cent of you, who responded.

Wheelchair worries

Great Britain's women's wheelchair basketball and rugby teams have qualified for the 2004 Paralympic Games, but British Paralympic Association (BPA) policy could still see them left at home.

The GB wheelchair rugby team won the European Wheelchair Rugby Championships with a 32-31 victory over Belgium, and the women's wheelchair basketball team beat France by 48 points to 36 to clinch third place in the European Championships.

But the BPA may decide the two teams cannot go to the Paralympics because their world rankings and medal chances are not high enough. It should decide at the end of this month.

Charlie Bethel, women's basketball team manager, said: "As far as the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation is concerned, they have qualified. It would be a travesty if they didn't go."

Bethel said they would appeal if the BPA decided they should not go to Athens.

A BPA spokeswoman said the criteria for team selection hadn't been decided, but would follow the standards for the last Paralympics, which ruled that teams should be capable of finishing in the top six.

She said: "International standards are too low. If a team won in Europe, but were tenth in the world, it is unlikely they would go."



HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PERSONS

Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed. Flights to Cyprus, Tenerife, Malaga, Lanzarote, Costa Almeria, Majorca, Algarve, Malta, Rhodes and Florida.

Weekend Breaks - Paris, Dublin & Amsterdam. Holiday homes in France.

Our brochure with coloured pictures is available at www.access-travel.co.uk

or please apply to:

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd, 6 The Hillock, Astley, Lancs M29 7GW, tel: 01942 888844.



High performance ramp systems for disabled access



Unrivalled Sheerline benefits include:

- ◆ compliant with Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- ◆ low-maintenance
- ◆ strong, stylish and safe
- ◆ any design
- ◆ slip-resistant
- ◆ quick and easy to build.

For a system that gives you peace of mind, please call L.B. Plastics Ltd on

01773 852311

L.B. Plastics Ltd, Firs Works, Nether Heage, Derby, DE56 2JJ.

Tel: 01773 852311

Fax: 01773 857080

Email: info@sheerline.co.uk

Website: www.sheerline.co.uk

SHEERLINE

Decking, Ramp, Fencing and Railing systems



On the chopping block

While council tax bills rise to a record high, social care is being stripped to the bone and charges for essential services are rocketing. John Pring investigates

In Hampshire, disabled people are facing "barbaric" rises in charges for home care.

In Oxfordshire, services for disabled children have been "cut to the bone".

And in Tower Hamlets, the London borough is cutting home care services to less severely disabled people.

Across the country – but particularly in the supposedly more prosperous south – disabled people are facing a barrage of increased charges and cuts.

But are the string of reports received by *DN* just isolated examples, or part of a wider picture of cash-strapped councils once again targeting disabled people to save money?

Ian Loynes, co-ordinator of Southampton Centre for Independent Living, is in no doubt.

"Non-essential, non life and death services are either being chopped back or being taken away altogether," he says.

"People with home care or direct payment funding are year on year seeing their funding being cut.

"Five years ago, a 20-hour a

week direct payment package was the going rate in Hampshire, but the huge majority of people who need a care package now have less than ten hours a week."

Dave Ward, Hampshire social services assistant director, says the council wants to increase home care packages and he would be "very surprised" if the going rate had fallen, but he does not have any statistics to back up his case.

Loynes also says new government guidance intended to lead to fairer charges is instead causing huge increases in charges for some disabled people.

Local authorities cannot consider earnings in deciding charges, but can take account of savings and pensions.

Loynes says such rises are "barbaric and unacceptable".

"Those that are left are paying much, much higher charges," he says. "They are going up by as much as 300 per cent. It is bleak out there."

If the council had not increased charges, Ward says it would have lost half its £4 million annual charging income, instead of the £1 million it has lost. He says the



One cut too many: Gail Hanrahan's son Guy (left) and young people at Centre 404 (right) are some of the many who could lose much needed services if council budget cutbacks go ahead



council is offering benefits advice to those paying increased charges.

Reg McLaughlin, chief executive of Greater London Action on Disability, says the situation is probably worse in London because government funding settlements there are "the worst in the country".

"I am concerned that disabled people will end up having to be institutionalised either through hospital or forced into institutions because they can't afford to live in the community," he says.

At the same time that some charges are rising, services are being cut back by many councils.

In supposedly prosperous Oxfordshire, services for disabled people have been on the chopping block since the county council announced last year that it would have to slash its social services budget by £9 million.

Furious parents of disabled children formed an action group, FORCE, after learning of plans to reduce respite care beds.

Gail Hanrahan, of FORCE, says the council's children with disabilities service has been "cut to the bone".

In a development that has been mirrored in other cash-strapped councils, the authority has disguised the unmet demand for services by cutting the number of people who are eligible for such help.

"The criteria threshold is now so high that only those deemed in the greatest need are being offered a service and families are being turned away,"

says Hanrahan. "There is a real danger of the whole system breaking down."

Sarah Ainsworth, the council's service manager for disability services, says overnight respite care is "very expensive" and "something that we feel that not all families need".

She says most social services departments are suffering "considerable deficits" and areas like Oxfordshire have been hit by the government's new spending formula, which redistributes money to supposedly less well-off councils.

London councils where disabled people are facing possible cuts include Tower Hamlets, which expects a £3 million social services overspend in 2002/2003.

It has announced that services such as help with shopping and bathing will now be targeted at those needing most help to maintain independence.

Similarly, Camden Council faced a demonstration by disabled women in February (*DN* April) to protest at plans to end home care services for "low need" disabled people.

And Islington Council, another authority facing a huge social services overspend, is planning to cut grants to voluntary groups, despite a 21 per cent council tax increase.

Three of these groups provide play facilities for disabled children.

After concerted lobbying, the council has agreed to "review" two of the cuts, including a grant to Centre 404, which runs clubs for young

learning disabled people, but there is no guarantee that they will be reinstated.

Celina Clarke, manager of learning and leisure services for Centre 404, said they would have to drop two of their social and education clubs if the reduction of nearly £10,000 in its £65,000 grant went ahead. "I feel gutted," she says.

Steve Macarthur, director of Islington Play Association, which was instrumental in lobbying the council, says services hit by cuts "will certainly be damaged".

"They might take less children or there will be a lower standard of service. It has got to impact in some way."

Islington councillor Laura Willoughby blames the government for "taking money out of London and redistributing it north" and says councils are having to fund new responsibilities with no extra money.

"Of course there are cuts. The government is giving us less money," she says.

The Department of Health was unable to produce a comment.

Without detailed research, there is no knowing how many disabled people across the UK have been losing vital services or facing increased charges.

But the anecdotal evidence suggests thousands are losing out – particularly in London and the south.

As usual, when the time comes for cuts, it is disabled people who seem to be targeted first.



**Christies
Care**

**Living Independently
at Home**

We are experts in providing Living-In Care for people who want to stay in their own home and need help to do so.

We visit to assess your needs and work with you to provide the right care arrangement for you. We have well trained staff, often available at short notice. We give continuity of care. Enjoy peace of mind and security with our staff.



mail@christiescare.com
www.christiescare.com
01728 605000

**Given up work to care for someone?
Find out how we could help you.**



If you don't work or don't earn very much because you're caring for someone, you may be able to get extra State Pension when you retire. But to make sure you don't miss out, you may need to take action immediately - no matter how far off your retirement is. A free government guide tells you all about the new State Second Pension and what you have to do. Get your copy now by calling, visiting our website, accessing our digital TV service by pressing the interactive button on your remote or filling in the coupon.

Your pension. Know your options. 0845 7 3132 33 www.pensionguide.gov.uk



Complete and return to: Pension Guide, Freepost, Bristol BS38 7WA. Textphone users call 0845 604 0210.

I would like my guide to be in: English ☐ Welsh ☐ Cassette ☐ or Braille ☐.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Name _____ Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____ Phone number _____ Date of Birth _____

Please tick here if you do not wish to be contacted in the future ☐.

2861461



Part of the Department
for Work and Pensions

The lone ranger

Clive Garnett has campaigned on disability rights issues for years, often with great success. Nuala Calvi talks to the man who knows how to stir up trouble

When Clive Garnett's local department store refused to put in automatic doors for its disabled customers, his response was to take up residence on its doorstep for six months.

The 67-year-old wheelchair-user held his silent daily vigil in all weathers, from August to February, collecting 5,000 signatures for his equal-access petition and a bulging file of press coverage along the way.

The file, now in a big black folder in Garnett's living room, titled "campaigns", is stamped: **RESULT: WON – AUTOMATIC DOORS INSTALLED.**

It's just one of many such battles in almost 20 years where the former clergyman has single-handedly taken direct action against corporate culprits in his home town of Portsmouth. They grew into the campaign machine now called "Speak Out", run by Garnett

and three other friends committed to the cause of accessible environments.

"I didn't plan for it to become what it has; it just happened," he tells me of the "hobby" which is now a full-time job, financed by regular fundraising coffee mornings.

"It started when I became disabled at the age of 47 with arthritis – I suddenly became aware of the problems disabled people faced every day. At that time, disabled people accepted what they were told. I felt disabled people needed to take control of their lives, that they had a voice. The name 'Speak Out' came out of that."

An early subject of complaint – and many letters – was the lack of dropped kerbs around the town. "There were very few in those days. If there was no dropped kerb at the end of a road, you would have to reverse back up the whole way."



Outspoken: Garnett at campaign headquarters – his living room

Things have improved since then; Garnett now finds himself invited to attend consultations with businesses and local authorities who want disabled people's input to make their buildings and developments accessible.

But despite progress – and the looming 2004 deadline for buildings to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act – he believes there is no reason to become complacent.

"Access is still an issue and will be for a long time. A lot of large companies are dragging their feet."

The local Barclays bank is a prime example. *DN* reported Garnett's current campaign for a ramp so that disabled

customers no longer need to meet a member of staff outside. So far, 2,000 signatures have been collected, with some local people even changing banks in support. That can't go down too well, can it?

"Barclays sent for the police, actually. No one's ever done that before. It shows that sitting peacefully does an awful

"Other disabled people's groups whose meetings I attend don't get involved in protests – they might make a phone call or write a letter and hope companies will change, but they're scared to get involved further in case they aren't consulted about things in the future. But I don't go away."

On the other hand, Garnett's

'A lot of disabled people don't like talking to officials: they would rather talk to me'

lot. It works. It embarrasses these companies."

Garnett sees his persistence as the key to his successes. It's perhaps also why he remains a bit of a lone warrior.

methods are a far cry from those normally associated with direct action. The noise made by the Disabled People's Direct Action Network doesn't sit comfortably with his old-fashioned values.

"One doesn't chain oneself to fences, block entrances or throw paint around – I feel that could be counterproductive. The greatest quality is patience – and stickability."

Those qualities have stood Garnett in good stead in some of his other campaigns, including a two-year battle to get the local ambulance service to pick people up on time for their appointments in the right kinds of adapted vehicles.

And he finds the phone rings constantly with requests for advice or advocacy – he has just been to court to speak on behalf of a disabled couple unfairly fined over road tax.

"A lot of disabled people don't like talking to officials: they would rather talk to me."

To many, Garnett is clearly a local hero; he's also something of a local curiosity. The taxi driver knows who he is; she has seen him outside the bank.

"But why," she asks, "can't disabled people just change their bank if they can't get up the steps?"

Her attitude is a reminder we need people like Clive Garnett.

CORNWALL

Caroline and Colin Northover invite you to stay at **Tregoninny Farm** near Truro (2 miles) for **bed and breakfast**.

Very secluded and peaceful working farm with recently converted barns specifically designed for disabled access and needs.

(All categories)

Most rooms en suite, TV, tea-making etc. Beautiful panoramic views over unspoilt countryside from the dining room.

Ideal base for exploring Cornwall.

• Eden Project

• Heligan Gardens

• North and south scenic coastline

All rooms non-smoking. Cot available.

Rates from £20pp + VAT

Weekend and short breaks November-March

Discount for group bookings.

Tel: 01872 520145 Fax: 01872 264406

email: caroline.northover@btinternet.com

CAN YOUR POWERCHAIR DO THIS?

Experience the amazing *Balder Finesse* soon. Models to suit all ages.

Variety of seating systems fitted



Call Today

01256 767181

Unit 24, Murrell Green Business Park
London Road, Hook RG27 9GR
Fax: 01256 768887

BAIDER

Can charities change?

What changes have been made since *DN*'s last employment survey of disability charities? Nuala Calvi reports

Two years on from *DN*'s last employment survey of major disability charities, there are still gaping differences in how far they practice what they preach.

While 53 and 66 per cent of staff at Arthritis Care and Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD) respectively are disabled, Leonard Cheshire, Mencap and Scope lag significantly behind, around the two or three per cent mark.

Again, it seems that the larger, traditional service

provider charities are at the bottom of the "league table".

And while RNID is doing better than others at 17 per cent, it has only marginally improved in the last two years, while RNIB has not budged at 7.7 per cent. Sane, the mental health charity, declined to take part in this year's survey.

Reg McLaughlin, chief executive of GLAD, is not impressed. "It's appalling. Even 17 per cent is not good enough – at the very least, they should be meeting the percentage of

disabled people among those available for work. But as disability organisations, they should be doing more."

According to the Disability Rights Commission, twenty per cent of people available for work are disabled.

Leonard Cheshire and Mencap note that many of their staff are care workers, and subject to physical and mental fitness regulations. Among non-care staff, Leonard Cheshire says one in five are disabled.

They add that many disabled

people may not reveal their disability, or may become disabled at a future date and not inform employers, so numbers are likely to be higher than they appear.

But McLaughlin says more important than overall percentages is the number of disabled people at senior management level. At Scope, RNIB and RNID, these numbers have gone down since 2001.

Scope, which recently launched a survey to highlight the barriers disabled people face getting into the job market, ironically has the lowest number of senior managers with disabilities. At less than one per cent, its numbers have more than halved since 2001.

New chief executive Tony Manwaring admits that

"assumptions may have been made that disabled people would naturally be attracted to working for the organisation", resulting in Scope not being proactive enough on the issue.

He's developing an action plan that includes training people with cerebral palsy for senior management positions and setting up a network of disabled employees to make career opportunities at Scope more accessible.

For McLaughlin, there is still one important issue which our survey doesn't touch on.

"The organisations that take the lead in the survey – BCODP, BDA and ourselves – all have disabled chief executives. Things won't change until chief executives of major charities are disabled people themselves."

DN 2003 EMPLOYMENT SURVEY	No of employees	% of staff who are disabled [& 2001 figure]	% of senior managers who are disabled [& 2001 figure]	% of line managers who are disabled [& 2001 figure]	Do you guarantee an interview to suitably qualified disabled applicants? How many guaranteed interviews were given in the last 12 months and how many got the job?	Number of staff leaving in last two years who left on grounds of ill health/disability	Number of jobs that are ringfenced for disabled people or where personal experience of disability is essential
Arthritis Care	248	53% [unknown]	38% [36%]	51% [unknown]	Yes; unknown	4 in past year	49
British Council of Disabled People	12	100% [100%]	100% [100%]	100% [100%]	We only interview disabled applicants	None	All jobs ringfenced
British Deaf Association	52	38% [34%]	50% [40%]	45% [33%]	Yes; unknown	None	Unknown
Greater London Action on Disability	12	66% [75%]	100% [75%]	75% [100%]	No; most posts are for disabled people only	1	All except admin posts
Leonard Cheshire	8,000	Over 2% [0.8%]	9% of senior staff [2.6%]	2.9% [2.9%]	Yes; 54 interviews given and 5 job offers made	0.1% on grounds of disability	24 directly employed by Leonard Cheshire
Mencap	Around 5,000	2.8% [over 3%]	3.7% [2.4%]	3.5% [1.5%]	Yes; figures unknown	Unknown	"Most roles require disability knowledge"
Mind	125	4.6% [unknown]	None [unknown]	7.4% [unknown]	Yes; none	None	None
Multiple Sclerosis Society	138	4% [unknown]	None [unknown]	1% [unknown]	Yes; none	None	None
RADAR	16	44% [41%]	60% [100%]	40% [100%]	Yes; 4 of 5 newest posts went to disabled people	None	Under review
Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB)	2,923	7.7% [7.7%]	10.65% of managers [11.7% earning £21,585 plus]		Yes; unknown	132	None
Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)	1,236	17% [16%]	3.5% [7%]	Around 18% [7%]	Yes; unknown	30 due to ill health	None
Sane	42.3 (full-time equivalent)	-- [0%]	-- [0%]	-- [0%]	--	--	--
Scope	3,891	3.51% [2.98%]	0.9% staff on over £30k [1.85%]	Unknown [2.08%]	Yes; unknown	135	None
Spinal Injuries Association	29	45% [30%]	50% [75%]	75% [75%]	Yes; 4 interviews given, 2 offers made	none	3 current vacancies, all ringfenced



**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES
NEW, USED AND HIRE**

 **Motability**

call 023 9275 6265 now!





Atlas CONVERSIONS

MANUFACTURER APPROVED CONVERSIONS by

www.atlasconversions.co.uk



ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor
Mary Wilkinson, Disability Now,
6 Market Road, London N7 9PW,
minicom: 020 7619 7332,
fax: 020 7619 7331,
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



Budget blues

I was gobsmacked by the April budget – not that I begrudge winter fuel payments (wfp) to pensioners, or the increase to the over 80s, but what a smack in the face for disabled people.

I know many people eligible for the wfp (including over 80s) who are more active and mobile than I am.

Given the government's argument about using Disability Living Allowance for heating, I would like to know what percentage of over 80s receive Attendance Allowance (AA) and why the government felt they had a particular need for increased wfp. I've written to Andrew Smith (Work and Pensions Secretary) to ask.

Tricia Higgins
Ipswich
820,300 over 80s receive AA
and there are 2,121,200 in
England and Wales, so that's
38.67 per cent – Editor

Trouble with taxis

As a parent of a son with cp and a taxi driver, I can understand both sides of the problems experienced by the mother and her wheelchair-using daughter (Share your problems, DN April).

The dilemma for taxi operators is that the requirement for wheelchair access is only a very small part of the vehicle use and getting less as more accessible vehicles come into service.

As local councils are demanding more wheelchair access, the accepted vehicle is becoming the London Taxi or an MPV equivalent such as the Eurotaxi, neither of which are very satisfactory for wheelchair users and difficult to get into for people who are elderly or have a walking disability.

As a result of my own family experience, I recognised the problems, so bought and now operate a purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicle as a taxi in my area of West Berkshire. Its use is increasing as the word is spreading.

It would make more sense to me if councils were to support the provision of an adequate number of the correct vehicles in their area with drivers who were willing and happy to provide a good service to wheelchair users. This would be better than forcing operators to buy vehicles that are not entirely suitable and are just being used to meet the terms of their licence and nothing more.

The answer for wheelchair users is to apply pressure on your local council to force the provision of the correct vehicles that will carry you in comfort and complete safety.

Ken Porter
Thatcham, Berkshire

Toilets don't cater for us

I became disabled at 42 years-old after a stroke which disabled my left side, brain and hearing. Obviously at a relatively young age.

There are some good disabled facilities, particularly in supermarkets, and the Radar key scheme.

However, never have I seen condoms, femdoms or machines for incontinence pads in these facilities. Baby potties, nappies and so on, yes, along with a changing pad, but not, it seems, anything the younger disabled person may need.

There are a lot of us around. Why are we discriminated against in this way?

Are there other people who feel like me?

Letitia Bannister
Middlewich, Cheshire

B&Q get it right

I have just read about your Baywatch survey and I would like to say that for some time now B&Q in Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk have been running a very good scheme.

Every half an hour or so, one of the staff goes out and checks the disabled parking bays. If someone is parking there without a badge, a sticker is placed on the vehicle's windscreen in front of the driver, stating that it is a reserved space. They are also told that if there is a temporary disabling reason for the person to use the bay, then a special temporary sticker may be obtained inside the store.

A note is taken of the number of the car and, if the parking is repeated, a verbal warning is given.

So far this has been enough to stop people from "re-offending".

I am disabled and was pleased to find a store that was actually doing something about this.

Hazel Smith
Mildenhall,
Bury St Edmunds

Teen spirit



by Katie Caryer

"Complex needs" is one of the labels I have collected over the years.

Some of the labels I am happy to have in my collection are friend, bright, ground-breaker, trail-blazer and trouble, but my favourite labels are Katie, Kate or K!

I don't like having complex needs in my collection. To me, it means I need things which are difficult turned impossible to get, thus service providers don't bother to try to give them to me. People, we are talking about NEEDS! You know, those things that are vital to life.

Methinks, by giving people that horrible label, the label givers will deny those needs, which they think are so complex, and use the label as an excuse to segregate and exclude from mainstream life.

Do I think my needs are complex? Ummm, yes and no. I need the normal stuff – lots of food, drink (usually Coke) and good company, like every living person. (Surely shipping food to my house from all corners of the world isn't exactly a piece of cake.)

Here comes the "complex" bit. Due to my disability, I need a few things that enable me to live a normal life.

First up, my communication aid which allows me to express myself. It cost £6,000 – expensive but worth every penny.

My power wheelchair, which lets me move around independently.

A personal assistant to help me.

With these things I can live; without them I am unable to make my mark on the world. These things mean the world to me.

I see the need for them as quite straightforward. But the powers that be have decided they are "complex". "Too expensive to waste on a disabled person" more like, especially when there's cruise missiles to be paid for.

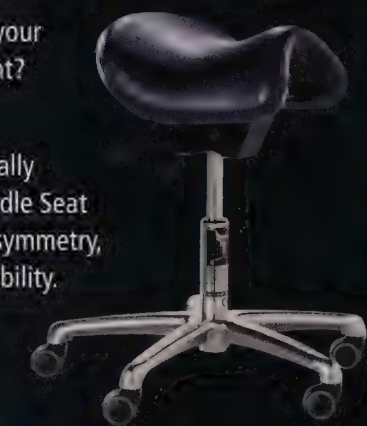
SUPPORTING ROLE.

What supports you in giving your patients even better treatment?
The Bambach Saddle Seat.

Enabling patients to sit naturally without spinal stress, the Saddle Seat can help with balance, body symmetry, and pelvic awareness and stability.

So it gives your patients confidence in their abilities, and gives you support in your work.

Call **0800 731 7831**
for a **FREE 14 day trial**



BAMBACH
SADDLE SEAT

Bambach Saddle Seat (Europe) Ltd.

Unit A2 The Seedbed Centre, Langston Road, Loughton, Essex. IG10 3TQ.
Tel: 0800 731 7831. Fax: 020 8532 5109. Email: info@bambach.co.uk

5-star holiday

A massive thank you to DN for the holiday competition. Crathie Opportunity Holidays, in the Highlands, is a fantastic place.

Christine and the gang made us so welcome. The beauty and quietness is breathtaking.

We were invited to the local school (only 20 children – Peter, my son, has 30 plus in his class) for a traditional ceilidh. All the children wore traditional dress, played bagpipes and recorders, and sang and danced. We joined in. My little boy was concerned that boys wore skirts!

Delia Walsh
London N8

PC pulse

by Dan Batten

Watch this space

A man who



waited a year to have a disabled parking bay painted outside his house got his wish – only to

have it covered with tarmac two days later. Ken Stevenson, who has arthritis, was sure the letter he received from Weymouth and Portland Borough Council telling him about road resurfacing work was an April fool's joke until council vehicles arrived and covered up the bay. The council claim this was the result of a map reading error. Sounds like a cover up for gross stupidity to me.

Introduction of **INDEPENDENCE™ iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair Revolutionizes Category With New Technology



Independence Technology, a Johnson & Johnson company, has announced the availability of the **INDEPENDENCE™ iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair. The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair operates similarly to a conventional manual wheelchair, but uses proprietary technology to supplement user input power. To the user, the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair feels like a much lighter chair moving over a flat, smooth surface regardless of the terrain. Sensors and microprocessors provide motorized assistance, requiring much less effort from the user than required in a traditional manual wheelchair.

To move with the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair, the user simply pushes the handrims as if propelling a standard manual wheelchair. The patented technology of the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair monitors both the user's input and the resulting motion, determining the appropriate level of additive power to provide a similar feel even when ascending or descending ramps or crossing resistive terrain such as grass or soft carpet. To the casual observer, there is little perceived difference when viewing the contemporarily designed **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair, compared to a regular manual wheelchair. To the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist

Wheelchair user, however, there is a remarkable difference.

Bodies Benefit from Reducing Stress and Strain of "Manual Wheelchair Syndrome"

The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair was developed to assist people with varying forms of mobility disorders ranging from arthritis, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy, paraplegia and tetraplegia, and may relieve and/or reduce the risk of "manual wheelchair syndrome," - repetitive stress injuries, such as rotator cuff and carpal tunnel syndrome, which are common problems among manual wheelchair users. The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair also provides an option for wheelchair users looking to sensibly protect and preserve upper body strength and function for years to come.

Innovative, Lightweight Technology

The **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair maintains most of the features of a manual wheelchair while combining advantages currently only available in larger, heavier power wheelchairs. The contemporary design of the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair incorporates an unobtrusive, built-in, under-the-seat



system that provides the user with discreet power assistance. At approximately 55 pounds, the **iGLIDE™** Manual Assist Wheelchair was designed for easy transport, with quick-release wheels, battery removal and fold-down seatback.

Independence Technology: A Company with a Mission

The company mission is to develop products and technology applications that help people with disabilities live their lives with greater freedom. With this product, Johnson & Johnson extends its tradition of innovative health care service to a community of nearly six million people worldwide who use wheelchairs.

In November, 2002, Independence Technology also received a unanimous recommendation for FDA approval from an expert independent advisory panel assembled by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to evaluate data for the company's **INDEPENDENCE™ iBOT™** Mobility System. The **iBOT™** Mobility

System operates on rechargeable battery power and uses a complex system of sensors, gyroscopes and electronics to simulate balance, enabling users to climb and descend stairs, navigate variable terrain, ascend kerbs and elevate, for extended periods, to a "standing" position. The company hopes to introduce the **iBOT™** Mobility System this year.



For additional information about the
iGLIDE™ Manual Assist Wheelchair,
the **iBOT™** Mobility System and
Independence Technology visit:
www.independencenow.com/uk
or www.iglidenow.com/uk

Alternatively freephone 08000 327 326.

SEE US AT

Naidex
Naidex Care Management



ACCESSIBLE SHARAN



**MORE POWER
LESS COST**



NEW

130 BHP TDI

S L Model


£ 20,550

2.0 ltr Petrol

S L Model

£18,950

Full manufacturer's model range available except 4x4 Sharan. Prices shown include delivery, Free Home Trial, exclude VAT & Road Tax.

 **Motability**



NO DEPOSIT

£ 49.50

Cash Price 1.2 SX Model

£ 10,500

PER WEEK

1.2 SX Model



ACCESSIBLE DOBLO

LOWERED FLOOR

ACCESSIBLE

DOBLO

MONT BLANC



NO DEPOSIT

FROM **£ 48.00**

PER WEEK
1.2 SX Model

CASH PRICE 1.2 SX MODEL

£ 9,999

**All models have fully tested
passenger & wheelchair restraints
with remote winch standard
on Mont Blanc variant.**

**QUALITY
PREMIUM
TRANSPORT**



ACCESSIBLE PREVIA



G S Petrol £ 23,500

G S Diesel £ 24,775

LEASE

HIRE

PURCHASE

CALL OUR NATIONAL TEAM ON

0191 2260099

FAX 0191 2721313



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP



'My wife and I aren't doctors'



When his son's facial pain became unbearable, Peter Bell took him to see almost every kind of specialist. But what eludes him and his son James is both diagnosis and results

In late January 2002, my son James, then aged ten, began to complain about what we thought were sinus pains. The first time he spoke about them, we thought he was acting up and sent him to school. But later that day, my wife had to collect him from school because he was continually complaining of intense pain. He was ill.

Our GP assumed that James had sinus problems because of the area of the pain. He was treated with various antibiotics, inhalers, steam treatment (outrageously painful, this one) and painkillers – all of which did nothing.

In early March, we saw a consultant at our hospital's ear, nose and throat department who examined James thoroughly. Nothing was wrong with his sinuses. A subsequent CAT scan showed little more. Months later, James also had an MRI scan, which also showed nothing.

I wondered if there was such a thing as facial neuralgia. There is, and it's called trigeminal neuralgia (TN). A description from the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association UK web site (www.tna-uk.org.uk) states that: "TN is an extremely severe facial pain that tends to come and go unpredictably in sudden shock-like attacks. The pain is often described as stabbing, shooting, excruciating, burning and extremely strong."

The website also shows where the trigeminal nerves are, what triggers attacks and how to treat them. After reading the descriptions we were certain:

James has TN.

We mentioned TN to our GP. Her response was that it's very rare ("the estimated prevalence is of 155 cases per million persons" she said) and that he was too young ("TN typically occurs in patients in the sixth decade of life").

But what a lot of "experts" don't read is that, according to the website, "it may occur at any age" and that "symptomatic or

secondary TN tends to occur in younger patients". But because it is more prevalent in women and is usually located on one side, the experts said James didn't have it.

We saw a paediatrician who breathed insensitivity. James was prescribed carbamazepine, which he reacted to badly. On a second visit, the paediatrician said James' pain was psychological – that he was

making it up!

We suggested TN, which he rejected, but admitted that it may be "atypical facial pain". This seems another way of saying that it's somebody else's problem. We were referred to a psychiatrist.

The psychiatrist affirmed that, contrary to all physical appearance, James does not

She asked James to describe the pain, since the description is crucial for a diagnosis. She wanted him to quote from the textbooks, to describe it as "lacerating", "like an electric shock", or "like a hot knife". James told her it's "like a cold knife", which was "wrong".

She looked at James for about 30 seconds more, and

'When the tears hit the trigger points, he winced in pain. We're in hell and have been there ever since'

have TN and blamed my depression, my wife, our entire extended families (living and dead), bullying at school, the death of a family pet and so on for this "psychosomatic" pain. This is rubbish, but we nod and agree to James taking Prozac. The Prozac cheers James up.

We consult more people. The dentist says it isn't his teeth. The optician says his eyes are more photosensitive than they were previously, but that there's nothing wrong.

James goes to art therapy once a week. I don't see the point, but he enjoys it. We discuss the psychological stuff with a community nurse now and then.

My daughter Rosie and I searched on the internet for experts in facial pain. We found one who worked at the local dental hospital. We emailed her and received a consultation.

said: "too young". We left the room, and Jamie burst into the most disconsolate bout of pure crying I've ever seen. When the tears hit his trigger points, he winced in pain. We're in hell and have been there ever since.

In September 2002, we saw a neurologist who agreed to "name" James' condition TN, although he wouldn't diagnose it. He has prescribed a low dose of an anticonvulsant called Gabapentin, as a placebo. The pain's still there, even if it is more manageable, but James hasn't been to school for more than the odd half-day since January 2002.

James can't go to the beach, play in the street, eat ice cream, be a child.

But my wife and I aren't doctors: we can't make the end diagnosis. Which means that as far as everyone else is concerned, James doesn't have TN.



THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF DISABLED PEOPLE 2003

Let's make it happen - The European Campaign Exhibition Centre

One of the major activities of the European Year of Disabled People will be a travelling exhibition centre, which starts in Greece in January and travels through all of the member states during the year finishing its journey in Italy in December 2003. The exhibition centre will be in the UK from the 2nd June to the 2nd July. The exhibition vehicle is a large accessible pantechicon lorry, which opens out into a large stage. The vehicle when opened is 15m long 7m wide and 3.1m high. The centre comes with two information areas, one paper-based and the other an IT area. Should your organisation wish to put materials in either of these areas, please complete the form below.

The UK Disability Forum has the responsibility for overseeing the campaign exhibition centre whilst its in the UK.

Name of Organisation

Address

Contact Name and phone number

Type of materials nominated

Please contact Anne Pridmore, Chair UK Disability Forum, Llamedos, 60 East Street, Mkt Harborough, Leics LE16 9AE. Phone: 01858 465416. Email: llamedos@enna.fsnet.co.uk

DN's motoring correspondent Douglas Campbell reports on the latest developments from Gowrings Mobility and on readers' concerns about their Motability car leasing contracts

Gowrings does good

Gowrings Mobility have turned their hands and minds once again to improving the lives of disabled people on the move.

Their new Mobility Swivel Seat can be fitted to the front seats of a wide variety of cars. The standard, compact or max model swings round outside the car door to enable easier access. It can be a boon for drivers and passengers who find getting in and out of the car increasingly difficult.

One danger of buying any mobility aid is being sure it is right for the user. With Gowrings Mobility, this is much less of a problem. Call 0845 608 8070 and you can arrange a home demonstration,



Mobility continues to lead the market through innovative foresight and a consistent commitment to improving the standards and services within the mobility market."

Gowrings has also been demonstrating their Kangoo ChairCab to taxi operators in their home territory of West Berkshire.

down a booking because they have no suitable vehicle, they turn away business and profits.

The Kangoo ChairCab is one of the first low-cost accessible taxis on the market. It has been adapted to provide an economical vehicle that does not compromise on comfort and safety. The wheelchair user can remain seated, facing forward in their own wheelchair. A Swivel Seat has been installed to help disabled people who do not need to travel in a wheelchair.

The ChairCab range is also available in adaptations based on the Chrysler Voyager, Citroen Dispatch, Mercedes Vito and Citroen Relay.

With a bit of luck, we will see the ChairCab and similar vehicles all over the UK before too long. Only then can disabled people begin to enjoy the same levels of outdoor mobility as their friends and neighbours.

Gowrings Mobility products will be on show at Naidex and KideQuip at the NEC, Birmingham, 13-15 May, see www.naidex.co.uk and at the Mobility Roadshow, 12-14 June, www.justmobility.co.uk www.gowringsmobility.co.uk



Swivel in style: passengers and drivers can enter their cars with ease

'Some operators are beginning to realise that it makes sense for some private-hire cars to be accessible'

with no obligation, at a time that suits you.

Installation at no extra cost is part of a comprehensive service, which also includes a three-year warranty and servicing.

Managing director Linda Ling told DN: "Gowrings

From 2012, all taxis will have to offer access to disabled people. Some operators are beginning to realise that complying early can be a positive move and that it makes sense for some private-hire cars to be accessible. After all, every time they are forced to turn

Contract clash

Several DN readers have written to us about letters they have received from Motability telling them that, when their present car leasing contract ends, they will not be allowed to take out a new contract.

In each case they have been told their insurance claims record is no longer acceptable to Motability and they will have to make alternative arrangements.

Some of the people concerned have suffered multiple insurance claims as a result of accidents. Many of these accidents are quite minor, but the total cost adds up to a significant amount. It is probably perfectly reasonable for Motability to refuse to allow such people to stay on the scheme.

There are, however, people who have simply had numerous insurance claims as a result of malicious damage

and vandalism. As they often have no choice about the neighbourhoods they live in, it does seem unfair that they should be further penalised by Motability.

It is, of course, not really fair to blame Motability. They have no money of their own to cover the cost of these claims. The effect is to increase the insurance premium paid to Royal Sun Alliance, which in turn must increase the rental charges to customers. Those who have few claims are unlikely to be willing to pay increasing amounts to subsidise customers with bad claims records.

Meanwhile, people left out of the scheme will find it very difficult to obtain a car in any other way, given that the cost of insurance with a poor claims history will almost always be more than they can afford.

GM Coachwork Ltd



FIAT MONTANA

2.0 JTD turbo diesel, 4 seats and wheelchair access, full low floor conversion, lightweight ramp, power steering, air conditioning, 59" passenger headroom.

FREEDOM

INDEPENDENCE

COMFORT

AFFORDABILITY

QUALITY

Just some of the benefits of a vehicle from GM Coachworks Ltd.



FIAT ASPEN

Choice of petrol, diesel or turbo diesel, full low floor conversion, 54" passenger headroom, lightweight ramp, 4 doors plus tailgate, power steering. High roof version also available

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people



THE SOUTH WEST'S BEST COLLECTION OF QUALITY USED CARS

Volkswagen Transporter, 1.9 litre turbo diesel, W reg, March 2000, 15,000 miles, blue, full width ramp, 2 rear seats. £11,000.

Mercedes Vito, 2.0 litre petrol, T reg, May 1999, metallic blue, 22,000 miles, full width ramp, lowering rear suspension, 5 seats. £11,750.

Citroen Dispatch, 1.9 litre diesel, X reg, February 2001, red, 10,000 miles, lightweight ramp, lowering rear floor, 4 seats, £11,250.

Renault Trafic, 2.2 litre petrol, P reg, November 1996, green, full width ramp, 5 seats. £3,995.

Stock changing weekly please phone for details.

Ring 01626 853050

www.gmcoachwork.co.uk

GM Coachwork Ltd, Teign Valley Trusham, Newton Abbot Devon TQ13 ONX

GM
COACHWORK
SPECIALIST VEHICLES

SPECIALIST RESPITE CARE BREAKS

For people with disabilities

Blackpool Holiday Centre

14th – 20th June 2003



Entertainment every evening including music, competitions and cabaret.

Wide range of daytime activities inc. handicrafts and beauty care.

Visits to local places of interest.

Trained and experienced helpers.

Medical and nursing advice if required.

£199 per person, full board inc. VAT and insurance (ex travel)

Also available, South Down Holiday Village, Nr Chichester, Sussex
20th – 26th September 2003 - please ask for details

Further information and bookings

Call 020 8390 9752 and quote DN5

Or write to Rosemary McIntyre, MBE, Holidays with Help,
4 Pebblecombe, Adelaide Road, Surbiton, KT6 4LL.

A Brotherwood conversion - the number one choice for engineering excellence, quality and integrity of design

The Volkswagen Sharan, Ford Galaxy, Seat Alhambra, quality M.P.V.'s matched with quality conversion where wheelchair passenger travels centrally, immediately behind the driver and front passenger. Seating for friends or family is provided either side.

New Sharan SL With standard roof (54" headroom)
from **£26,479.53** (2.0 'SL' petrol, manual 6 speed).

Including raised roof (59" headroom)
from **£27,929.53** (2.0 'SL' petrol, manual 6 speed).

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN - FAMILY STYLE WITH QUALITY



Brotherwood conversion of
the Volkswagen Sharan.
V.C.A. Type Approval
No. LC326/A/027 Ext. No.2



The Brotherwood conversion of the award winning Fiat Multipla provides access to the front of the vehicle via a shallow rear entry ramp. Seated alongside the driver, the wheelchair passenger is able to enjoy the pleasure of clear visibility and a comfortable ride position whilst totally secured by a fully tested restraint and personal safety belt.

Multipla from **£20,864.40**

- Petrol 1.6 SX - Manual 5 speed or Diesel available. Low & level floor through to forward passenger position with 56" headroom.



Brotherwood conversion of
the Fiat Multipla.
V.C.A. Type Approval
No. LC356/A/057

THE FIAT MULTIPLA - SIDE BY SIDE SEATING FOR DRIVER AND WHEELCHAIR PASSENGER.



Brotherwood conversion of
the Citroën Berlingo. 5 Door.
V.C.A. Type Approval
No. LC334/A/035. Ext. No.2



Brotherwood conversion of
the Renault Kangoo. 5 Door.
V.C.A. Type Approval
No. LC357/A/059

Brotherwood conversion of the
Mercedes Vanio in current development
and test programme. V.C.A. Type
Approval under application.

Berlingo from **£14,373.59**

- 14i Petrol Forte - Manual 5 speed, Low & Level floor (61" flat floor conversion) with 57" headroom.

Kangoo from **£14,409.12**

- Petrol 1.2 16v Authentique - Manual 5 speed or Automatic, Diesel available. Low & Level floor (61" flat floor conversion) with 58" headroom.



New Mercedes Brotherwood Klaster conversion from **£22,973.70**

- available with a choice of 1.6 and 2.0 petrol or 1.7 diesel engines with manual 5 speed or automatic transmissions. Low & level floor with 1500mm (60") headroom.



Motability



BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Phone now for more details and
availability, on

Tel: 01935 872603

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP • Fax: 01935 872853 • e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com

Visit our website www.brotherwood.com for more information on our complete range of conversions

NEW OR USED • SHORT & LONG TERM HIRE • FINANCE • AFTER SALES SERVICE • BUY-BACK SERVICE

Records tumble in



The weather was superb, the crowds out in force and despite a lack of winning Brits, the standard was higher than ever. Lucy Glynn reports from the 21st London Wheelchair Marathon

It was a day for the favourites, with the much-fancied Frenchman and Italian taking the men's and women's wheelchair titles from their British holders in the 21st London Wheelchair Marathon.

In a spectacular race, Frenchman Joel Jeannot, who had been on his own for the last 15 miles, smashed the course record by three minutes to win in a time of 1:32.02 (see centre).

He beat last year's winner, Britain's David Weir, by two minutes. But both Weir, who cut five minutes from his personal best, and third placed Denis Lemeunier from France, also beat the old course record.

Jeannot was in a breakaway group with 2001 winner Lemeunier and Weir until nearly halfway, when he pulled away. From then on, he never looked back, leaving Lemeunier and Weir together until the final stages of the race.

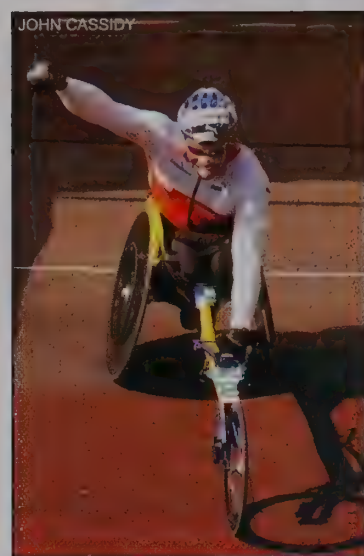
Weir entered the Mall immediately behind

Lemeunier and for a second, it looked like Weir would finish third, but he piled on the pressure as they went up the Mall and used his famed sprinting speed to make a last minute break from the Frenchman, finishing in a time of 1:34.48.

Lemeunier crossed the line just two seconds later, clocking in at 1:34.50.

Jeannot's win is his second in a week, following victory in the Paris Marathon, where he also broke the course record.

Speaking after the race, Jeannot said: "My motivation was first class today. I've set a new race record and I'm very happy. I like the marathon.



just pushed on so well. He is so strong but older than me."

Weir said he wasn't bothered about losing the title

"It's the most beautiful but the most challenging marathon in the world" – Francesca Porcellato, Italy

Today was very good for me."

Last year's winner Weir was delighted to have achieved a new personal best. "It was good, it was fast. It was a difficult race with such a strong field but I'm really pleased with the result. Joel

because he is young and has plenty of time to improve. He now plans to become a marathon racer instead of a sprinter. "I am 23, I have got years. I knocked five minutes off my personal best—that's a lot in wheelchair racing."

Charles Tolle, from France, put behind him the loss of a wheel last year to finish fourth in a time of 1:35.54.

And Britain's Tushar Patel, last year's runner-up, came fifth. Other Brits to make the top ten included David Holding, the British marathon record holder, in eighth, and 2000 winner Kevin Papworth, who finished ninth.

In the women's race, first-time London Wheelchair Marathon entrant Francesca Porcellato beat six-times winner Tanni Grey-Thompson by thirty seconds in a time of 2:04.21 (see above left).

Porcellato was seen as the favourite before the race despite her lack of London experience, after recording a recent marathon time of 1:49.

Porcellato and Grey-Thompson were together until they reached the Tower of London cobblestones at the 22.5 mile mark.

Although the 400 metres of cobbles are covered with a two-metre strip of carpet, they proved too much for Grey-Thompson.

The Italian pulled ahead to



THE VICTORIAN SOLO



THE TAGGA



THE VICTORIAN TANDEM



THE DISCOVERER

introducing our new range..



THE TWISTER



THE ZEPHYR

We manufacture a range of Tricycles and trailer trikes to suit all ages and abilities, folding frames and electrical assistance if required.

Full range of special needs products.

Please call for a range leaflet or to discuss your special needs.



logic

engineering concepts Ltd.

(inc. P.J. Taylor Specialist Cycle Manufacturer)

Nash Works, Nash Lane, Belbroughton Nr. Stourbridge, DY9 9TD. U.K.

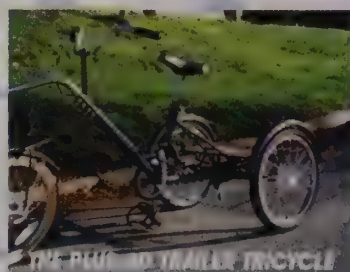
Tel./Fax: +44 (0)1562 731355

Mobile: 07775 942144

web: www.logicengineeringconcepts.info/ • e-mail: roger@logicengineeringconcepts.info



THE TRIWAY




THE PLUS-TO-TRAILER TRICYCLE


Marathon thriller

Four of the best

Winner, Men's

Name: J Jeannot 
Age: 37 **Time:** 1:32.02
Biog: Winner, 2003 Paris Marathon. The highly ranked Frenchman has only competed in the London Marathon once before, in 1999, when he came second. Winner of 2003 Paris Wheelchair Marathon.


Second place, Men's

Name: D Weir 
Age: 23 **Time:** 1:34.48
Biog: Surprise winner of the 2002 race. Specialist 400 metres athlete and excellent sprinter.

Winner, Women's

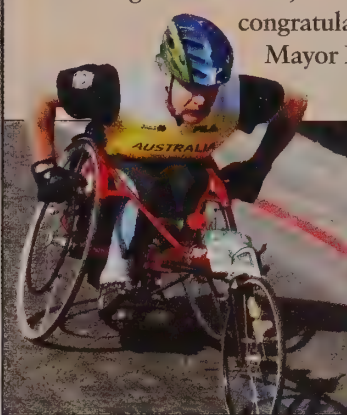
Name: F Porcelatto 
Age: 32 **Time:** 2:04.21
Biog: Italy's national record-holder and medalist in four Paralympics. Has participated in over 60 national and international marathons.

Second place, Women's

Name: T Grey-Thompson 
Age: 33 **Time:** 2:04.54
Biog: Six-times winner of the London Marathon and winner of nine Paralympic golds. Media favourite and *DN* columnist. Mother of one-year-old Carys.



Keep on moving: (from top left, clockwise) Former world boxing champion and brain injury survivor Michael Watson on day one of his expected six-day walk along the Marathon route; the men's pack speeds down the Mall; Britain's David Weir; Joel Jeannot, Tanni Grey-Thompson, David Weir and Francesca Porcelatto receive their medals; Australia's Chris Brogan finds form, and Paula Craig is congratulated by London Mayor Ken Livingstone.



open up a gap which she increased to more than 30 seconds by the finish, leaving the Welsh golden-girl to cross the line in a time of 2:04.54.

After the race, Porcellato described the course as "the most beautiful, but the most challenging, and the best marathon in the world".

She told *DN*: "I'm very happy. It was my first time here in London and I found it very good. The people are great and the weather today was perfect."

"It's a hard course because of so many turns and it's very technical. It's a challenge and I like a challenge."

Grey-Thompson said she was pleased with her performance which was almost 20 minutes faster than last year, but said: "The cobbles are really hard. I had a bad time on them. I wish they would tarmac them but I guess they can't do that!"

"I lost Francesca on the cobbles. She had just put too much on me. I started picking up again but then there weren't enough miles to catch her up."

The most improved wheelchair athlete was Britain's Paula Craig, who finished third in a time of 2:06.54.

Craig became a wheelchair user following an accident in which she was knocked off her bike while training for a triathlon. She has been wheelchair racing for less than two years, but if she carries on improving at this rate she could be the one to watch next year. "I am so pleased to finish

third in a strong field and to improve my best by 40 minutes. I just want to keep improving," she said.

The mini wheelchair race for under-18s, over a two and a half-mile course, was won by Mark Roston of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in a time of 11:04.

Second finisher overall was Shelly Woods of Blackpool in 11:58. Woods has been tipped as a potential champion of the future.



Eddie Kidd
models for
Wearable

...fashionable clothes
wheelchair users want
to wear.

Visit our Stand 372 at NAIDEX
NEC Birmingham 13th - 15th MAY
or phone 0141-774-9000 for free catalogue

Wearable
CLOTHING LTD



Henry

d.o.b: 20.05.2001

Henry is a contented child with a bright smile. He is much more interested in people than in his toys. As a newborn, Henry contracted Meningitis and Septicaemia, which resulted in brain damage. He needs special seating and it is uncertain if he will be able to sit unaided or walk with aids. He is unable to crawl and has just received a motorised wheelchair. His lack of mobility does not seem to frustrate him. Henry vocalises, but there is no sign of speech development. He needs help with feeding.

Henry has been with the same foster carer since he was three months old. She finds him a rewarding child and a pleasure to care for.

Ethnic/Racial Origins:
White British.

Family Needed: An adoptive family with an understanding of the needs of disabled children, who can accept the uncertainty regarding Henry's future development and can support his individual needs.

Contact Plans: Letterbox contact with his birth parents.

Allowances: An adoption allowance may be payable.

Legal Status: Accommodated.

Contact:
Anne-Marie Dawson
Tel: 01444 446576
West Sussex
Social Services,
Mid Sussex Locality,
4 Orchard Way,
EAST GRINSTEAD,
RH19 1AS.

Let's get physical

Looking to start an exercise programme but don't know where to begin? You're not alone. But, as Dan Batten found out, there are plenty of ways to begin getting yourself on the right track – or treadmill



Pulling power: Margrith Hose, who has MS, with health consultant Jessica Short during one of her hour-long exercise sessions

people to use them. Work on the initiative is still going on. The target is to have 30 accessible centres in the UK by this autumn.

So what sort of equipment should an accessible gym have? Among the goodies you could expect to find would be an upper body multi-station, where a variety of exercises – including pull downs with weights – can be performed by anyone, including wheelchair users.

If you have trouble keeping a grip on handles, you should also expect to find some adaptable hand grips and velcro straps, as well as transfer rails to help you get from one bit of equipment to another. And if your balance isn't too great, but you fancy a run, you could use a treadmill which only starts moving when you do, rather than taking a flying leap onto one that is already moving.

When you do find a gym that has some of these items, who will show you how to use them? The Gary Jelen research also discovered a lack of disability awareness among facility staff, which can discourage disabled people from using leisure facilities. Again, the IFI are trying to change this. In collaboration with the YMCA, two training courses are offered to improve disability awareness among staff and trainers. This includes looking at issues such as the Disability Discrimination Act, empowering disabled customers and adapting exercise programmes to meet disabled people's needs.

Someone who benefits from a gym with good disability awareness is Margrith Hose.

Margrith, who has multiple sclerosis (MS), began using the gym at the Westgate Leisure Centre in Chichester four years ago when her NHS physio sessions stopped. On top of her once-a-week gym session, Margrith, 54, also does yoga and swims.

"I exercise to keep and improve my muscle tone. I find with MS that if you don't use it, you lose it" she says.

Margrith's gym session sees her working for "just over an hour, with no long breaks". She has one-to-one support from a gym instructor, using regular equipment with a few tweaks here and there to make life

Why adopt me?

BECAUSE I NEED EXTRA-SPECIAL CARE TO HELP ME GROW AND DEVELOP.



Last year Islington Adoption Service successfully found families for over 30 children - Wesley would like to find a family of his own.

Wesley is a bright and loving boy who has made great progress since being placed with his carer in July 2002. He is responding well to the affection and stimulation he is receiving and is now able to demonstrate his wants and needs. He loves music and the company of others.

Wesley's early years have been difficult for him and he has global delay in all areas. From limited speech, his vocabulary is now increasing.

Wesley needs a family who have a background in caring for children with special needs and be able to build on his positive achievements to date. Wesley will need to be the youngest in the family.



For more information about Wesley, or any of our children at Islington, call Vernie on **020 7527 4417** or email us on adoption@islington.gov.uk



Keeping fit. The domain of bronzed Adonises, male and female, with muscles bulging like Arnie and co., gained from hours of pumping iron in the gym to get the body beautiful. It's all for young people, isn't it? With the emphasis on the body beautiful, there's no room for disabled people, is there?

Well, that's the way most people imagine it to be. So it's good to know that this image is way off the mark. Although the gym is a great way to fight the flab and whip yourself into shape, slogging it out in a room full of sweaty strangers is not the only option.

The good news is that getting to a gym with accessible equipment is less of an uphill struggle, thanks in no small part to the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI). Research by the Gary Jelen Sports Foundation in 1998 discovered that one major barrier preventing disabled people from using fitness facilities was access. The IFI set out to combat this by attempting to get accessible gym and fitness equipment put in place in a number of public sector facilities with encouragement for disabled

easier. "I use a treadmill with raised bars to hold onto. It gives me more support than one with lower bars", says Margrith. "I use the treadmill at walking pace, as running is a no-no", she adds.

There is also an adapted rowing machine with a seat that gives more back support. This is helpful to Margrith, as she has balance difficulties.

Refreshingly, Margrith finds her fellow gym users very accommodating, sometimes overly so. "If my instructor isn't with me and I'm starting a different exercise, people will run over to help me. It's very nice, but sometimes you just want to be left to get on with it. It is good to know help is at hand though", she says.

While Margrith is an experienced gym user, one newcomer is DN's design and production editor, Jamie Trounce. Jamie, 26, started using Wavelengths Leisure Centre in Deptford, south east London in March after "goad-ing from my girlfriend". This cajoling acted as the spur to start an activity that Jamie, who is profoundly deaf, has been



Pump it up: Colin Chessman (above) tries his hand at some high-tech cardio equipment, while Jamie Trounce (right) gets busy with a rowing machine



machines with weights attached to them from my wheelchair, and concentrate on exercises that strengthen my arms and chest," says Colin.

He says the initial session with a trainer helped.

"The staff and other gym users are really helpful and

selection of easy-to-learn warm up, general and "alternative" exercises that you can do without leaving your chair or using any additional equipment.

If you fancy getting to grips with some equipment, there are items like the Aero Trak, the equivalent of a treadmill for wheelchair users. The front wheels of your wheelchair secure into place to stop you from rolling away, and then you push using a resistance switch to alternate between a gentle jog or more strenuous "run", reading your distanced travelled and speed on a dial similar to one on an exercise bike.

But if running isn't for you, you could always ski using an Aero-Ski. Designed to give you a thorough cardiovascular workout, this inclusive design mimics skiing and gives you the option of having passive or non-passive leg exercise to boot.

Hopefully, our round-up of what's available, and the experiences of our fitness fans will inspire you to get fit. Whatever you want to get from your workout, there should be something to fix it.

The staff and other gym users are really helpful and there's always space for me to work in. I'd recommend the gym to everyone

meaning to get into "for years".

As an ex-smoker, Jamie has added reasons to get fit. "I sometimes get really breathless when I run, but luckily I'm not training to lose a beerbelly!" he says. He visits Wavelengths two to three times a week where he uses a variety of cardio equipment, including rowing machines, treadmills and exercise bikes. A bit of vanity may be fuelling these workouts, as he also uses weights to get "well fit and toned".

As a beginner, Jamie had to be instructed on using equipment. Being deaf hasn't caused problems following instructors' advice, and Jamie praises the instructors on their communication skills. "They are very good at showing me what and what not to do, such as breathing correctly or slowing down, in their own invented sign language. They also speak carefully when I have to lip-read them, which always helps".

Colin Chessman noticed benefits to his health when he began training at the Spelthorne Leisure Centre in Staines, Middlesex. But if it wasn't for a circular put through his door, Colin, 64, wouldn't have known about Spelthorne.

Colin, who is a wheelchair user with diabetes, also has breathing problems, but says that his upper body workouts lessened these almost immediately. "I use a variety of

there's always space for me to work in. I'd recommend the gym to everyone", he says.

If the gym isn't for you and you'd rather try something at home, what are your options? Although the market for fitness products aimed at disabled people isn't exactly bulging, there are some ingenious items out there. Some are even designed specifically for wheelchair users.

One of the most prominent companies is Unique Sport, which produces the *Wheelchair Workout* video. This video shows a 45-minute workout that can be done from your chair, and includes stretches and a

**WANT TO TURN YOUR HOME INTO A MULTI-GYM?
HAVE A LOOK AT "UP FOR GRABS" ON PAGE 47.**

London Recumbents

www.londonrecumbents.co.uk

recumbents@aol.com



Rangers Yard
Dulwich Park
London
SE21 7BQ
020 8299 6636

A complete range of cycles for people with special needs

The British Deaf Sports Council works to make sports and leisure opportunities accessible for deaf people, email: enquiries@britishdeafsportsCouncil.org.uk www.britishdeafsportsCouncil.org.uk

The British Wheelchair Sports Foundation organises a number of major sporting events for wheelchair users each year. Tel: 01296 395995, www.britishwheelchairsports.org

The English Federation of Disability Sport aims to expand sporting opportunities for disabled people and actively increase the number of disabled people involved in sport. Tel : 0161 247 5294, www.efds.co.uk

The English Sports Association For People With A Learning Disability is the governing body of sport for people with learning disabilities. Tel: 01924 267 555, website: www.esapltd.co.uk

Inclusive Fitness Initiative, Tel: 0114 257 2060, email: info@inclusivefitness.org www.inclusivefitness.org

The London Sports Forum for Disabled People works with sports centres and local authorities to improve and develop facilities, tel: 020 7354 8666, www.londonsportsforum.org.uk.

Unique Sport, tel: 01434 220497, www.uniquesport.com

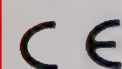
"Not Just a Wheelchair" but an Integral part of your Complete Mobility Solution



Seat powers up/down
Built in automatic tie-down system
Reclining backrest for greater comfort
*** Competitively priced ***



Popular as a drivers wheelchair
and also for passengers, compatible
with Chrysler Voyager Entervan, Vito,
Community transport vehicles and others



Crash tested & EMC tested
CE Marked for safety
& security

Free Insurance
12 months
Warranty

Also enquire about
our other services
and driving controls



Tel: 01442 212918 for more information

Lifestyle Electric Wheelchair Systems
Unit 5, Eastman Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7HF,
www.steeringdevelopments.co.uk

Aiming for change

Mark Deal didn't set out to train other disabled people. But ten years down the road, he's made a difference – for himself and others

It would be fair to say that I stumbled into training rather than seeing it as a vocation. A training job came up that enabled me to be part of the changes taking place in an organisation that helped disabled people into employment. I grabbed it.

I had a degree in history and politics and had worked in an accounts office for four years,

and rehabilitation to disabled people wishing to enter the employment market. I was offered a job as a trainer.

I enrolled in my local college to obtain a teaching qualification to give me confidence. As someone who uses a wheelchair, has limited use of his arms and a mild speech impairment, I'm not exactly a natural choice for a

is one of my greatest assets: my disability gives credibility to what I say. But let's be clear, being disabled does not make you an expert on disability. You also need a wider background that gives you the skills and knowledge required to train people. So, to help me practice what I preach, I obtained an MSc in disability management from City University in 1994, sponsored by ENHAM.

I'm currently working towards a PhD researching disabled people's attitudes towards other impairment groups – but that's not essential for the job!

Much of my day-to-day work as a manager of employee training is to ensure that employees have the appropriate skills and knowledge to perform their jobs effectively. This not only includes face-to-face training with staff, but also ensuring that our delivery of National Vocational Qualifications consistently meets the quality assurance requirements. It often means observing staff assessing trainees in their chosen work areas, which can range from computer aided design to horticulture. The trainees may be on a one-year residential training programme at ENHAM or a six-week work preparation programme.

'In the field of training disability equality, this is one of my greatest assets: my disability gives credibility to what I say'

but I knew that was not for me.

ENHAM, the charity near Andover in Hampshire, opened a resource centre in 1990 which offered vocational assessment

training role. But then, again, no one told the bumblebee it was too heavy to fly!

In the field of training disability equality, though, this



Sowing seeds of change: Mark carries out observation training with Lisa Aitken (top), a horticulture tutor, and Laura Stimpson, a trainee.

One of the greatest pleasures of my work is seeing a trainee with a disability develop into someone who can hold down a job alongside their non-disabled peers in open employment. Let's face it – this is an aspiration many disabled people have yet to fulfil.

It hasn't all been plain sailing for me. In the early days, to work in a "traditional" charity,

as one of only a handful of disabled employees in management, was challenging, particularly when non-disabled employees held paternalistic views.

Ten years on, I can look around the table at a team meeting and notice that almost half of us have a disability.

One of the great strengths of the learning team at ENHAM is the diversity of backgrounds in the group: disabled and non-disabled people working as one team, each with our own strengths.

It has been great to be involved at a time when the charity has moved from being an institutionalised, manufacturing organisation to one that is people-focussed. We secured re-accreditation of the Investor in People award in 2002 and I took on the management and co-ordination of that.

I was also pleased to be appointed to the Disability Employment Advisory Committee in January 2003. It is an advisory committee, established by Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, to look at employment issues for disabled people. It is in its early stages, but we have a group of people who are enthusiastic and keen to make a difference.

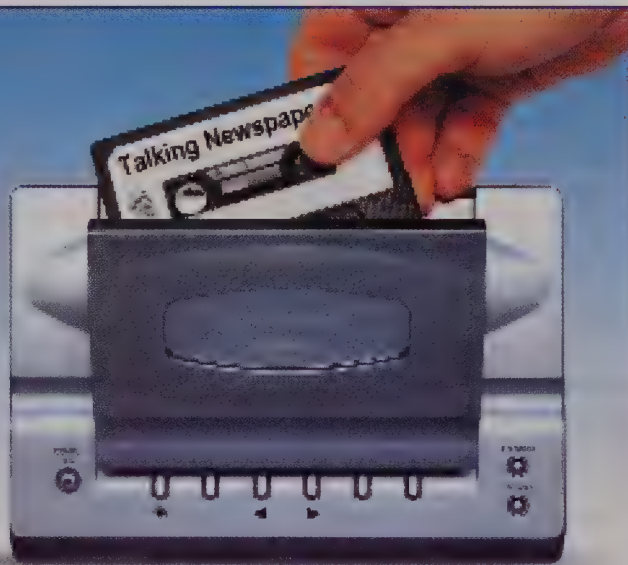
Many more disabled people are now actively looking for a job. As someone who many people thought would be unlikely to hold down a job, I am still progressing in my career 17 years later. I won't tell the bumblebee if you don't!

Have you heard the news?

More than 200 national newspapers and magazines are now available on audio tape or in electronic format for anyone who has difficulty reading.

All your favourite national titles are available from Talking Newspapers. Recorded in our own studios by our experienced team of sound engineers and readers, these publications are supplied on quality audio tape - many are also available in electronic format for use on a PC. To order your **FREE** catalogue or for further information please call:

0870 442 9592



Talking Newspaper Association of the UK is a registered charity, No: 293656

TNAUK

National Recording Centre, Heathfield East Sussex, TN21 8DB

Web site: www.tnauk.org.uk

Email: info@tnauk.org.uk



Reader's Digest... Daily Mail... Woman's Weekly... Guardian... Hi-Fi News... Time... Cosmopol

TV



This month the schedules have been so disrupted by wall-to-wall coverage of the war in Iraq that it's been hard to find anything to watch.

Only yesterday I expected my VCR to play ITV1's *Esther* (promising inspiring stories of various disabled people finding success in the media) only to discover a repeat of *Family Fortunes*.

These news overruns have assumed orgiastic proportions in my view and are to be avoided in order to protect your mental health. But talking of protection, aside from the death and destruction on our screens, I reckon some of the soldiers need to slap on some sunscreen.

At least there's something to watch on Wednesdays again, now that C4's *ER* is back, although the newly installed (and somewhat controversial) departmental metal detectors may well be activated by either Weaver's crutch or Romano's prosthesis, I fancy.

Tim Baron, 46, was one of the first people to be diagnosed with autism back in 1961. His moving story was told, along with others, in BBC2's *The Autism Puzzle* which effectively blew theories about parental coldness and the MMR vaccine out of the water. Like Five's *The Woman With the Mysterious Brain*, it's all a mystery. Sharon Parker's childhood surgery for hydrocephalus meant she had only ten per cent of normal brain capacity. Her IQ test, however, came out at a very respectable 113 – proving that the brain can indeed heal itself.

Five seem to have cornered the market in hard-to-watch documentaries. *The Child Who's Older Than Her Mother* told of four-year-old Hayley, who has progeria, which means she's ageing so rapidly she will probably die before her teens. At the other end of the scale, ITV1's *The South Bank Show* paid tribute to Thora Hird's passing which made me wonder if the various stairlift/electric riser/recliner people are looking for a replacement for their ads.

If they are, I'm free.

Jane Shepherd

Coming up



The Edward Lear Foundation, a disability arts think-tank, has been launched online. The foundation encourages active participation from disabled artists who choose to work outside the perimeters of major funding bodies. Other projects include the archiving and preservation of disability art. www.learfoundation.org.uk



The National Disability Arts Forum has launched a pioneering new book. *Shelf Life*, an anthology of poetry and prose, exploring experiences of – and challenging notions about – living in the face of death. Introduced by Nabil Shaban, *Shelf Life* is available for £15 (£10 unwaged) from the National Disability Arts Forum, tel/minicom: 0191 261 1628, web: www.ndaf.org. All proceeds from the book will be spent on disability arts related work.



Stagetext is expanding in 2003, bringing live-theatre captioning to more venues across the UK. Produced by a computer and display unit installed near the stage, it will enable people who are hard of hearing to enjoy theatre presentations. For a list of venues and performances, log on to www.stagetext.co.uk

Film



Welcome to Collinwood



Joe and Anthony Russo's *Welcome to Collinwood* is a classic caper movie seen through a lowlife prism.

When petty thief Cosimo (Luis Guzman) is remanded after a botched car theft, he hears about a perfect robbery from a lifer who's given up his own chances of pulling it.

Cosimo starts working to get himself out and pull the job that will make him rich. When he tells his girlfriend Rosalind (Patricia Clarkson) that he'll pay someone to plead guilty to his crime, she tells other people. Soon, his supposed friends are working to beat him to the money.

The friends are a pretty pathetic bunch, including Pero (Sam Rockwell), the kind of boxer who couldn't ever have been a contender, Riley (William H. Macy), a photographer who can't work because he's sold his cameras to buy babyfood while his wife is in prison for a fine they can't pay, and Toto, the aged thief whose incompetence as a lookout put Cosimo inside in the first place.

Advising them is veteran safecracker Jerzy (George Clooney in a cameo role, right). How good he is we don't know, but his dislike of explosives and the fact that he's in a wheelchair don't give

an encouraging message.

It's sharp, gritty and very funny. But it's a lot more than a comedy thriller, because its core subject is poverty. It's about life in a desperate world where everybody is grindingly poor. Its characters are people for whom the American Dream has failed, each of whom just hopes that they'll

somehow get enough money to get their heads above water. The irony is that the prize they're pursuing is just \$300,000 (roughly £190,000); one poignant scene has them talking about how they will spend the money, and it's easy to work out that the sums just don't add up.

Allan Sutherland



★★★★ excellent

★★★ very good

★★ good

★ OK

★ poor

new

Stretch out with our new slimline bathlift

The new NEPTUNE bathlift from Mountway offers users the ability to take a warming bath with complete independence and safety, at any time.

Because of the unique slimline design, you are able to sit low and well back in the bath, perfect for the tallest people and those with restricted movement.

A simple push button mechanism will lower you gently into the bath and raise you, in your time and at your convenience.

Recommended by professionals, the NEPTUNE'S light weight and slimline design is rapidly making it a UK favourite.

To find out more, please call

01495 718000

Email: newneptune@mountway.co.uk

Web: www.mountway.co.uk

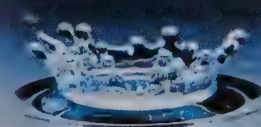
new
neptune
bath lift

Unrivalled legroom

Easy handling

Slimline design

Value for money



mountway
bringing independence to life

Grow your own veg



Home-grown fruit and vegetables are the in thing, a supposedly healthy alternative to what you can pick up at the shops. But how to start growing them? Green-fingered Fred Walden gives some tips

With the combination of food scares and the enthusiasm created by TV gardening programmes, more people are turning to growing their own vegetables at home or on an allotment.

While this is highly commendable and a fantastic, eco-friendly leisure pursuit, you might feel a bit left out if you have some sort of disability or mobility impairment.

When I look at neatly lined rows of vegetables on my friends' allotments, I am realistic and know that as a wheelchair user, this is a fantasy. Even if I could manage

to move over the soft soil, I would probably crush and ruin anything that grew long before I had chance to eat it.

One thing that years in a wheelchair has made me good at is problem solving. Like

“Oh no!”, I hear you some of you say, “I want to have colour and flowers around my patio”. Well you can. It is good practice to mix vegetables and flowers’

most other things, there is always a solution.

Whilst there are products like the Path roll (a green plastic path that can be rolled out like a carpet), it is rather

expensive and has other problems like weeds and grass growing through it. You can also make paths from a variety of materials like woodchip or concrete but, again, they are expensive and you lose a lot of growing space.

The solution I prefer and have had great success with is growing vegetables in containers and the narrow beds surrounding my patio. The advantage of this is that unlike an allotment, you have everything you need at hand – tools, equipment, water, refreshments and an accessible toilet. In addition, you have the pleasure of seeing the fruits of your labour on a daily basis and close to hand if you fancy a healthy snack.


“Oh no!”, I hear you some of you say, “I want to have colour and flowers around my patio”. Well you can. It is good practice to mix vegetables and flowers in the same area. Pollinating insects are attracted to the flowers whilst pests have difficulty finding those tasty vegetables.

There are also many lightweight, long-handled tools to enable easy access to the soil without bending. From my wheelchair, I can cultivate the soil, remove weeds, dig holes, plant, water, prune and harvest my plants. If I were fanatical enough, I could even use a low wheelchair to access the soil by hand or use a Levo chair to stand and reach taller plants.

My gardening wheelchair is fairly standard, but has puncture-proof tyres. And I would not be without my

laptray on which I can velcro containers and seed trays.

You can grow almost anything in a container – lettuces, radishes, spinach, chilli peppers or strawberries. But be




Living Options

Your move towards independent living

Lifestyle at Living Options is very much what you make it...




Small Group Homes on the West Sussex Coast for young people (18+) with physical disabilities



easy access to shops, cafes, pubs.....


adapted transport for cinemas, concerts, clubs and colleges.



Very competitive rates

To find out more call Gill on 01243 672989

Registered charity no. 299206



CYCLONE

Do YOU want to work with one of the Worlds leading lightweight wheelchair manufacturers ?

We require sales agents in all parts of the UK

Do YOU know people requiring the type of equipment we sell ?

We pay commission on referral leads

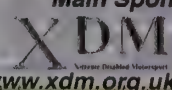
Do you speak foreign languages or have contacts overseas ?

We are looking to export and pay for agent introduction for three years

Telephone Now 0700 CYCLONE (0700 2925663)

www.cyclonemobility.com

Main Sponsors of



www.xdm.org.uk

I am interested in:-

Working with Cyclone ☐

Agency Referrals ☐

My Disability is ☐

and level of disability is ☐

Cyclone Mobility and Fitness are one of the leading Aluminium and Titanium ultralight wheelchair manufacturers. They are also suppliers of fitness and therapy equipment for wheelchair users. We are looking to expand our coverage and want enthusiastic and energetic wheelchair users to join our team of representatives both in the UK and overseas. If you think you are that person then contact Stuart Dunne at Cyclone. Unit 5 Apex Court, Croft Business Park, Bassendale Road Bromborough, CH62 3RE

I would like further information on:-

Passive Exercise Machines ☐

Wheelchairs for Everyday ☐

Wheelchairs for Sport ☐

Handcycling ☐

Off Road Vehicles ☐

FILL IN THIS FORM NOW!

Name

Address

Tel No.

● Ultralight

● Sports Wheelchairs

● Elite Performance


● Everyday Wheelchairs

● Bespoke Design

● Cutting Edge Technology

● Titanium 3-2.5

● Aluminium 7020



aware that watering is critical. As for beds, I prefer narrow, south or west facing ones as I know that if I am away for a few days, the roots have a good chance of reaching down for moisture if they get thirsty.

My passion is growing tomatoes, and I am lucky to have a south facing border with a wall behind it to reflect the heat. I grow the smaller cherry and plum tomatoes for their flavour and "snackability". Many never make it to the salad bowl.

If you want to grow tomatoes around a patio or deck, make sure you buy an outdoor variety. And if you are a beginner or restricted for space, go for the bush varieties that don't need staking.

The easiest way is to buy 5-to-10-inch plants in pots and plant them in a well-watered hole, preferably in May or June. Prepare the soil by digging well and adding compost or bonemeal. Tomatoes love a weekly feed with something like Tomorite once the flowers have set on the trusses. If you don't have good soil, consider a Growbag, but be prepared for lots of watering.

I also like to grow larger plants up 5-foot canes and get up to seven trusses containing 200 small fruits on each plant. This type of plant requires more skill and regular removal of the side shoots. At the end of the season, I ripen the remaining green fruit by putting them in a bag with a banana.

Onions are another vegetable that are easy to grow if you buy and plant them as bulbs, known as sets. You simply push them in the soil, pointy end up, and water well. Onions prefer open ground, so



Clockwise from top: Fred off to pick cherry tomatoes armed with secateurs and lap tray; hanging basket strawberries available from Ken Muir; Fred with his potted herbs.

don't plant them against walls.

Dwarf French beans are another easy-to-grow plant that is perfect to mix into your flower bed or grow in a pot. If you buy them in small pots, apart from planting and watering, picking is the only other skill you will require.

If you don't have a garden or don't want to venture out into the bright light, then you could grow mushrooms. Even exotic varieties such as Oyster and Shitake are available in kits. They grow in the box supplied and only require watering, patience and a little luck!

Mushroom kits can be ordered from **CJ industries**, tel: 01239615300

The Path roll can be bought from **Greenfingers**, tel: 0845 345 0728, www.greenfingers.com

Information on various tools and equipment can be found on www.fredshed.co.uk

Strawberries can be ordered from **Ken Muir**, tel: 0870 747 911, www.kenmuir.co.uk

Coming to a garden near you

Garden shows are a British tradition that attract more "A-list" celebrities than ever before. I have been going to shows like Chelsea, Hampton Court and Gardeners' World for years and can report that things have improved for disabled visitors.

Chelsea, organised by the The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), kicks the season off on 19 May. Tickets cost £13-£29 and must be ordered in advance. Wheelchair users who take a helper only pay for one ticket.

Crowds can be a problem, but numbers are now restricted so it is not so bad. Access is generally good

except for one gravel avenue and the fact that many stands in East Avenue have a large step onto them. There are plenty of accessible toilets and indoor areas in case of rain. Parking is across at Battersea Park, but Help the Aged are running wheelchair-accessible buses, 7am to 8pm, from the disabled parking areas near the Chelsea gate.

This year, Motability have a garden to celebrate their 25 years in business. It features a car hanging off a rock face and waterfall. I hope this is not meant to reflect the standard of Motability drivers! Next on my list will be the garden of Sheik Abdullah. I love the clean

lines of these minimalist, Arabic-style gardens.

If Chelsea is a bit hectic for you, try going to Gardeners' World live at the Birmingham NEC. Starting on 11 June, this show is totally accessible and features show gardens, vast shopping areas and the RHS floral pavilion. You can also watch your favourite gardening celebrities giving advice in the celebrity lecture theatre.

For northern-based gardeners, the RHS show in Cheshire starts in on 23 July. This is the Chelsea of the north and well worth a visit. For details, see www.rhs.org.uk or my own website, www.fredshed.co.uk/shows.htm

LIFESTYLE SOLUTIONS

Make day to day living much easier with products designed to offer optimum comfort and correct postural seating.



FLEXUS -

a comfort, positional wheelchair with tilt in space and a programme of postural accessories to custom build the chair to meet individual requirements.

MINIFLEX -

a compact power chair with front wheel drive and tight turning circle for use indoors. Powered seat raise is standard and there is optional seat tilt or comfort seating.



DX COMPACT -

provides the best in an outdoor chair with good indoor capability. Powered seat raise and comfort seating are standard, with powered options for tilt, recline and footrests.



VITAL -

Ergonomically designed by a physiotherapist Vital provides comfort at the touch of a button. As the Scandinavian design chair rises or reclines correct postural seating is maintained throughout the movement.

Legrests operate independently and provide both support and relief.

The powered rise facilitates an optimum standing height required with armrests at a level to provide additional assistance. Swing back arms provide ease of transfer. Vital comes in small and large.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, FILL OUT THE REPLY CARD AND SEND TO US FREEPOST OR CALL OUR FREEPHONE NUMBER.

PLEASE STATE PRODUCT OF INTEREST:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: DAYTIME TEL NO:

DN5/03



RAINBOW REHAB
FREEPOST
THE COACH HOUSE
134 PUREWELL
CHRISTCHURCH
DORSET BH23 1BR

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL FREEPHONE
0500 618008

Gardening information

Want to know how to make your garden easier to negotiate? Then check out *A Garden For You*, published by The Disabled Living Foundation. It contains straightforward information on helpful equipment and special gardening techniques for people with a variety of disabilities. The 110-page guide, which is fully illustrated, includes chapters on creating different types of garden, paths, steps, ramps and raised growing areas, as well as a host of tips on lawn care, building and equipment maintenance. £5.95. tel: 020 7289 6111, www.dlf.org.uk

There's a veritable thicket of gardening related information out there. Dan Batten digs out the best



If you have arthritis and want to make tending your blooms as painless as possible, then the Arthritis Research Campaign booklet *Gardening and Arthritis* could help make gardening a pleasure. The booklet encourages people to work "little and often" and gives advice on tools such as long handled hoes, ratchet pruners and trowels. There's a list of useful contacts and, best of all, it's free. Tel: 01246 541107, email: info@arc.org.uk

Do you need a few hints to get you started, or perhaps some more advanced help? The gardening charity Thrive have plenty of information to get to the root of any problem, including practical gardening courses teaching a wide level of skills for people with visual impairments, a 24-hour answerphone enquiry line to help solve your gardening troubles and information packs looking at areas including design, construction, sensory gardens and older gardeners. They also publish *Growth Point*, a quarterly colour magazine. 24 hour enquiry line, tel: 0118 988 6668, www.thrive.org.uk


the Mobility Roadshow®
the future of mobility

10 am - 5 pm
FREE admission

**Thursday 12th, Friday 13th &
Saturday 14th June 2003**
Donington Park, near Derby

Do you have a mobility problem? Whether you are older, younger, disabled, a driver or a passenger, you will benefit from a visit to the Mobility Roadshow

See and try out a huge range of products and services including:

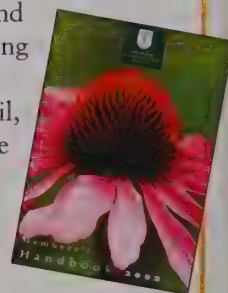
- Test Drive vehicles on the world famous circuit ● Walking aids, wheelchairs, scooters, ramps, hoists, stairlifts, household aids - all kinds of mobility products from over 200 exhibitors
- Try before you buy ● Impartial advice & information
- Go-karts, skid cars, 4x4 driving, outdoor pursuit vehicles
- Pre-bookable wheelchair & scooter loans
- Sign language interpreters ● Crèche ● Free showguide

Call Mobility Choice **0870 770 3222** for further details
e-mail: choice@gt.net.gov.uk www.justmobility.co.uk/roadshow

If you have a mobility problem, the Mobility Roadshow is the single most useful event you can visit in 2003

If there's a gardening fanatic in your midst, the ultimate treat for them will be membership of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). Among the many benefits members enjoy are free entrance to RHS gardens and selected partner gardens, a free monthly magazine and free gardening advice by phone, email, letter or face to face.

The society also produces a series of practical video guides, covering everything from vegetable growing to bonsai cultivation. Membership begins at £30, with videos costing from £12.99. Membership enquiries, tel: 020 7821 3000, or email: membership@rhs.org.uk, web: www.rhs.org.uk



Are you searching for a website that offers both up-to-date and traditional gardening information? If you are, Gone Gardening will be just for you. It promotes organic and ecologically friendly methods, and believes strongly that gardening is for everyone. The site has a comprehensive shopping section and offers free delivery to the UK mainland. There's also an online discussion board which allows you to pose questions to an active community of fellow gardeners. www.gonegardening.com

Big ideas for small spaces

You don't need acres of space to start a garden. With a little creative thinking, you can enjoy fruit and flowers on your patio.

Anne Davies shows you how

Size isn't everything in the world of gardening, and even if you're only able to use a gro-bag, a patio or a window-sill for your horticultural projects, there's nothing stopping you from enjoying a wide variety of easy-maintenance plants.

This year in my baskets, I shall be planting *Blackberry Veronique*, a compact pink-flowering, thornless, heavy cropper with good flavour (from Ken Muir, £10.05, see www.kenmuir.co.uk).

New flowers for baskets are the Thomson & Morgan Sweet pea *Suger and Spice* – highly fragrant and compact (12 plugs £9.95), the hanging basket Carnations (6 plugs £9.99), and a new trailing Petunia (6 plugs £8.99) www.thompson-morgan.com.

Also worth a look are Mr Fothergill's stunning *Calibrachoa* – mini trailing Petunias



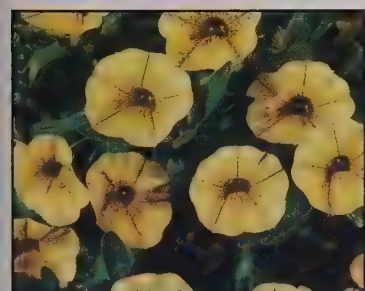
(below left, 6 plugs, £7.95), the trailing *Antirrhinums Luminaire* (left) in new Hot Pink and a new Surfinia Petunia, *Baby Pink Morn* (above). Tel: 01638

552512 or see www.mr-fothergills.co.uk.

Check out your nearest Aldi, B&Q or Homebase for good value bedding plants, from ten for £1.69. Stock varies from week to week but there's usually some good buys. They all have roses and flowering shrubs.

Bare-rooted roses cost around £2. Container-grown ones from Homebase and B&Q rare around £5.

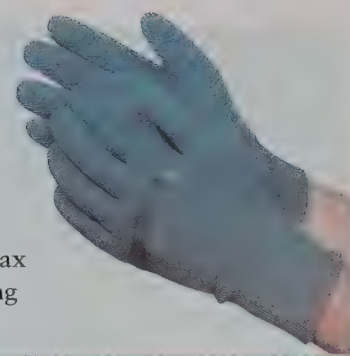
Finally, to cheer up a sunny corner, scatter hardy annual seeds. Nigella, Candytuft, and Marigolds – of the cottage garden type – are widely available and keep an eye out for the tall three-foot *Agrostemmas* which look great in pink and white.



Kneelers and gloves

In garden centres look out for:

- Town and Country new comfy elite knee pads made from neoprene. £12.99, see www.townandco.com
- Andersons & Firmin's damp-proof kneelers. £1.99 each
- Stanley range of gloves including vinyl coated cotton gloves and Tenax all seasons thornproof (right) for men and women – ideal for protecting your hands in all conditions. £5.99

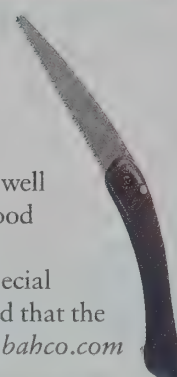


Tools

The company Anything Left Handed are selling a new pruner with blade and counterblade reversed for £14.95. 020 8770 3722, www.anything-lefthanded.co.uk

Wolf Tools have a range of "fixed-lead" light and robust tools as well as several heads in the multi-change system. They are available in good garden centres and online at www.wolfgarten.co.uk

Bahco's folding saw with a comfy handle (right, £20.72), has a special coating on the blade which reduces effort by 30 per cent. I also found that the Bahco light secateurs (left) are good for pruning, £13 approx. www.bahco.com



Pots, containers and ornaments

Ferndale Lodge carry new Cotswold planters, moulded from polymer resin and crushed stone. A trough sells for £19.95, and circulars can be found for £21.95. www.ferndale-lodge.co.uk



Stewart Plastics sell two unusual containers for large ornamental plants, the Yineyang and Mosaica (left), both £39.99, as well as the attractive Balconiere trough holders for £16.99.

Also worth a look is Homebase's lattice corner planter for £14.99 and the metal magic pots which start at £4.99.

Pick up a Gardman garden obelisk at ALDI for £9.99, or try Woolworths for a selection of deep blue containers and ridged pots (above right). www.woolworths.com

B&Q stock the Tenax wall garden panel from £14.99 as well as a range of rattan animals, including pigs (right) and peacocks, £9.98.



Sheds and fences

Sheds and fences need to be spruced up and treated. The latest fast and easy way to colour and protect comes from Cuprinol in the form of the Rollable. This deep-pile roller has been designed to get into all the awkward bits. Comes in 5 colours. Tel: 01753 556979, www.cuprinol.co.uk

And finally...



For a bit of fun, try a Radar Frog from Presents Direct, which croaks when people cross its path. It may not be an ideal security measure but it'll raise a few smiles among your garden visitors! About £12, tel: 020 8246 4366 or www.presentsdirect.com

HAVE A LOOK AT 'UP FOR GRABS', PAGE 47

Continence Care

Direct to your door
in just a call or a click

HARTMANN offers a complete range of high quality products including continence care, personal hygiene, skin care, and herbal treatments.

Easy
Discreet
Ordering

Call us now on 0800 028 9490 or click
www.hartmanndirect.co.uk
for your 2003 mail order catalogue

Quote ref. DNMA03

Scotland's Premier Specialist Vehicle Converter



RENAULT KANGOO

Tel No: 01334 657722
Fax No: 01334 657711

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Gleneagles
Conversions Ltd



CHRYSLER VOYAGER

95 Bonnygate Cupar
Fife KY15 4LG



TOYOTA HIACE



MERCEDES VITO

For more information on our wide range of New & Used Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles
Please telephone us or visit our website at

www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

Mark Haddon
Jonathan Cape, £10.99

Christopher Boone is a 15-year-old with a difference – he has Asperger Syndrome, a form of autism. He is a genius at maths, but lacks knowledge about how to treat people and

social situations. He knows the capitals of every country and prime numbers up to 7,057, but doesn't understand facial expressions and body language.

When Wellington, the dog of friend of the family Mrs Shear, is impaled on a garden fork and Christopher is wrongly accused, he is determined to find the true killer. So using the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes as his guide, he and his pet rat Toby set out to hunt for the dog killer.

His difficulties with people make his investigations complicated and problems arise when he finds strange letters from his mother in his father's bedroom and uncovers his father's guilty secret. He is forced to run away from his father and embark on a journey, which brings new obstacles and social encounters.

This is both funny and

gripping; an amazing "whodunnit" mystery. The author is both witty and honest, and disarmingly frank. The book cleverly illustrates the many positive aspects of Asperger's Syndrome while alerting the reader to the fact that all is often not what it seems. Often misunderstanding and judgment are as disabling as Asperger Syndrome itself. The story is both amusing and sad, a sharp contrast that mirrors perfectly the life of someone with Asperger's. It is an astounding read with a strong message and an even better mystery story.

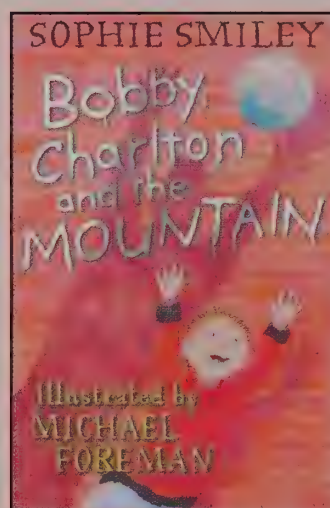
One word of caution: while I can see how this is used to emphasize key points, the book contains quite a lot of swearing and some parents may not consider it suitable for their children.

Luke Jackson

Book news

✓ Helen Atunrase has published a short novel for young adults, *Face to Face* (Blackie, £8.99). It tells the story of young Kaley as she comes to terms with her facial disfigurement. The action follows the girl as she starts a new school, at the same time challenging traditional understandings of disability and following her personal growth. www.blackiepublishers.com

✓ For younger readers, there's Sophie Smiley's *Bobby, Charlton and the Mountain* (Anderson, £3.99), a short novel about Bobby, who has Down's syndrome, and his football-obsessed family. A message about disability and reactions to it sets the background for a story about Bobby's determination to get a football kit for the Queen's visit to his school. When he takes matters into his own hands, things start to happen. www.andersenpress.co.uk



Freedom, Independence and Reliability



Sunrise Medical



Shoprider



Invacare/Scan Mob

Powerchairs promise to you:

- * Unique price guarantee that you can't buy cheaper anywhere
- * Free home assessments
- * Free 12 months insurance on new models
- * No VAT
- * No Driving License required
- * Finance available on request
- * We stock machines that carry up to 39 stone weight limit
- * Up to 8mph for road use
- * Up to 50 miles on one charge
- * Automatic battery charge included
- * All major credit cards accepted

100's of nearly new machines in stock at prices to suit all pockets
INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE ON SELECTED MODELS, SUBJECT TO STATUS

For further help and advice FREEPHONE

0800 0746834

www.power-chairs.com

PowerchairS

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

Part Exchange
Welcome

BE MORE INDEPENDENT

Drive your own vehicle from the comfort of your own Powerchair



Adjustable Elevating Legrests



Adjustable Angle Backrest



Adjustable Height Seating

DESIGNED AND
MANUFACTURED
IN THE UK

RING FOR
YOUR FREE
DEMONSTRATION
NOW!

CONSIDER ONLY THE VERY BEST!

Drive or be a passenger in your own vehicle from this affordable crash-tested 'Drive From/Everyday Use Indoor/Outdoor Powerchair'.

Be comfortably seated at your desk or table with adjustable height seating. Swing-a-way adjustable legrests supplied as standard. Lightest Powerchair of its type. Other options available.

AdaptaChair

THE COMPLETE WHEELCHAIR SOLUTION

For further information on the AdaptaChair range of products call

01769 - 573197

or visit our website: www.adaptachair.co.uk e-mail: sales@adaptachair.co.uk

NUALA CALVI



Fergus Henderson's hangout for urban carnivores has won him accolades, including Moët & Chandon London Restaurant of the Year 2001, and notoriety, for his rather unconventional cuts of meat. The 39-year-old, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's five years ago, now plans to take the nose-to-tail-eating ethos of St John's, Clerkenwell, to a new bakery and snack bar in Spitalfields.

Roast quail

The quail falls into a kind of bird purgatory. It is not a game bird, though some describe it as such, but is now a thoroughly farmed bird – not glamorous enough to warrant the “hands on” battling that people feel justified to exert on grouse and partridge, and is denied from joining the chicken's gang as it is seen to be too fiddly to eat. Then finally, to kick it when it's down, people say that it has no flavour!

Put all this behind you and let me put forward the case for the joys of roasted quails.

Ingredients

- Ten quails (as there are always those who end up eating three)
 - Olive oil
 - Sea salt
 - Ground black pepper
- Season the quails inside and out very thoroughly, being especially heavy on the salt. In a hot frying pan, with a splash of olive oil, brown the quails all over. When you are satisfied with their colour, place them onto a lightly oiled roasting tray and place in a hot oven for 20 minutes or so. Despite the quail's fragile

reputation, it is robust when it comes to cooking. It doesn't have the drying-out potential of the partridge or the angst of getting the perfect moment of blush in a grouse breast.

The quail wants plenty of cooking, to the point that its legs can be pulled easily from the ribcage, and the flesh sucked off the leg bone. When salty and well done, put the quail in a bowl in the middle of the table and encourage some hands-on eating.

Serve with a bowl of lentils or simply a watercress salad. Serves four

Bone marrow and parsley salad

This is the one dish that does not change on the menu at St John. The marrowbone comes from a calf's leg; ask your butcher to keep some for you. You will need teaspoons or a long, thin implement to scrape the marrow out of the bone.

Ingredients

- 12 x 7-8cm pieces of middle veal marrowbone
- A healthy bunch of flat parsley, picked from the stem
- 2 shallots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 modest handful of capers (extra-fine if possible)

Dressing

- Juice of one lemon
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- A pinch of sea salt and pepper
- A good supply of toast
- Coarse sea salt

Do you recall eating Sultana Bran for breakfast? The sultana-to-bran-flake-ratio was always a huge source of anxiety – one was tempted to add extra sultanas. Inevitably, this resulted in too many sultanas, and one lost the pleasure of discovering occasional sweet chewiness in contrast to the branny crunch. When administering such things as capers, it is good to remember Sultana Bran.

Put the bone marrow in an ovenproof frying pan and place in a hot oven. The roasting process takes about 20 minutes, depending upon the thickness of the bone. You want the marrow to be loose and giving, but not melted away, which it will do if left too long. Traditionally, the ends are covered to prevent any seepage,

but I like the colouring and crispiness at the end.

Meanwhile, lightly chop your parsley, just enough to discipline it, mix it with the shallots and capers and dress at the last moment.

This dish should not be completely seasoned before leaving the kitchen, and a last-minute seasoning by the eater will be important. This, particularly in the case of coarse sea salt, gives texture and uplift at the moment of eating. My approach is to scrape the marrow from the bone onto the toast and season with coarse sea salt. Then put a pinch of parsley salad on top and eat. Once you've had your pile of bones, salad, toast and salt, it is “liberty hall”.

Serves four

I am fortunate in that St John's is my restaurant so when I found out I had Parkinson's, my career didn't cross my mind. I continued my day-to-day work for quite a long time and it's only in the last year that I've stepped back from the kitchen a bit, for a mixture of reasons.

I don't work on the stove during a busy lunch because it wouldn't be good if my hand twitched and knocked over a hot pan. And if you're running a place, you have to be everywhere at once; I want to be the one who sees the plates as they leave the kitchen and I like it to be me who says if they don't look right. As well as that I'm in the process of opening a new place, St John's Bread & Wine, and I'm starting work on my second book.

It's not a recipe book, but it is about food and life. It deals with the Dorian Gray aspect of being on medication: the strange feeling of not knowing quite what would be going on if you weren't taking the pills.

I often lunch at St John's; it's a good way of keeping an eye on things and meeting people. The regular punters probably just think “there's twitching Fergus”.

We have a lot of regulars, particularly artistic friends. The art world has been very supportive – I've always thought the reason they like it is because there's no art on the walls!

I still cook a lot for my friends and I often find that the twitching goes away when I lose myself when roasting a

chicken or whatever. I tend to be quite dogged in that I just carry on doing what I do in the same way and enjoying it. Maybe it takes a little longer these days but I don't get frustrated – there's no point.

The kitchen can be an inhospitable environment and I suppose you have to be reasonably sturdy, but it's by no means impossible.

The food I make is the stuff I enjoyed as a child. My mother is from Lancaster so naturally tripe featured from an early age. I learnt to cook from her, and from being taken out to eat a lot by my dad – a big, jolly eater.

I also found that seven years' training at architecture college was no end of use in the kitchen. If you build a place, you shape people's behaviour; it's the same with food, but from the inside out.

My chums and I used to take over a restaurant on Sundays and cook for about 300 people. When I left college, I was offered a job in a kitchen before finding one in an architects' office. I worked alongside the head chef and was able to follow my own pursuits and always have done since.

I don't see St John's as a “concept” restaurant – painting everything white and serving offal isn't exactly a winning combination for drawing punters. It's a place where you can eat well, and heartily.

St John's, 26 St John Street, London, EC1M 4AY, tel: 020 7251 0848

Stannah. For round the clock reliability.

With the biggest nationwide network of local branches on 24-hour standby 365 days a year, it's got to be a Stannah Stairlift.

- New and reconditioned models
- Straight, curved or narrow staircases
- Friendly advice and fixed written quotations
- Fast, clean installation
- Full guarantee, free first service

CALL 0800 715 124 EXT 5116
www.stannah.co.uk/stairlifts

Please send details. For my household ☐ For a relative ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____



Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 5116, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR

TRUST STANNAH TO MAKE THINGS EASIER.



ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the *Directory for Disabled People* and other guides.

Write to her at *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or email your problem to editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



'I feel useless'

feel useless at times because I don't have a job. I'm 36, have had ME for seven years and am deaf. People say that I don't have a life, or seem to think my time is not important, but I do three hours of voluntary work a week and would love to have the energy to do a paid job.

I would like to work with animals, but such jobs often tend to be physical and I don't have the stamina to do much more than walk my dog each day.

I'm also unhappy in my personal life. Although I've fancied guys for ages, I don't sleep with the man I live with because I'm not interested in him sexually, so am I gay too?

Sally, Peterborough

It seems you are doing well in what you do. Your volunteering is worthwhile and you certainly don't have any cause to feel useless. Many people don't work and don't have your reasons.

Whatever you do in life, there will always be those who, for reasons best known to themselves, will carp and criticise. Just ignore them. They have no right to interfere in your life.

About your personal life, you don't say how the man you live with feels. If you are both reasonably happy with your living/sleeping arrangements, then, of course, you can continue.

If you've always fancied men then I seriously doubt if you're gay! When it comes down to it, however hetero we women may be, there are very few men we would actually like to sleep with. However, it would be a good idea to discuss the situation you are both in with him to see if you can understand each other better.

He received a £43,000 interim payment under the government's "clawback" policy which must now be repaid. They have also demanded costs of £19,000 to the other side. His solicitor has refused to go on representing him.

Bob is still on maximum doses of morphine and is in great pain at times. We do not know which way to turn.

Betty and Ronald, Oxfordshire
I am sorry to hear of the problems facing your family regarding Bob's injuries. I think it is important you get appropriate legal advice from a

solicitor who specialises in personal injury claims.

You need to ask whether further legal action is possible and also whether interim payments can be clawed back if a claim does not succeed. The solicitors' firms featured in the guide below will provide a free initial interview.

Unfortunately, there is normally a three year limit from the date of the accident in which to bring a legal claim. However, sometimes there are exceptions to this rule that will allow a longer period. This also applies in your situation when you have already made a claim.

The latest edition of the *Directory of Personal Injury Solicitors* is available from the Spinal Injuries Association. As well as listing solicitors by geographical area, the Directory has a brief guide to claiming compensation.

Helpline discrimination

I am a qualified counsellor, with a form of epilepsy that occasionally presents itself in the form of an "absence". I work on two helplines as a telephone counsellor. One helpline is a charity where I have worked for five years. They are fine about my disability.

About a year ago, however, I was employed by an Employee Assistance Programme helpline. I disclosed my disability at the interview and was offered the job, but was told I would have to fill in a medical questionnaire. They also asked for permission to write to my GP to ascertain my fitness to work.

I am a member of the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP). In a

recent magazine article, the BACP suggested that a counsellor could be breaking its code of ethics by seeing a client knowing that their disability may impact. Could I be excluded from my professional body when the new changes come into effect?

Victoria, Crawley

I rather suspect that the official bodies you mention have not fully taken into account the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). It is illegal under the DDA to treat people with impairments less favourably than the rest of the population.

Where necessary, it is incumbent on employers to make reasonable adjustments to the worker's surroundings and general situation.

Before you consider writing to the BACP, I suggest you

contact the Disability Rights Commission Helpline for some initial advice. Sometimes they provide legal help where appropriate.

If the BACP's code of ethics conflicts with your rights under the DDA, it may have to rethink its policies. It would be important that when speaking to the DRC you explain fully how your disability may impact when you are with a client face to face and, perhaps, whether you are able to anticipate "absences".

You have raised some interesting points and I would welcome hearing how you get on. I know our readers would be interested too. Of course, any information you give would remain confidential.


Payment nightmare

I am writing on behalf of my son, Bob, who had an accident as a motorbike passenger in 1992. He sustained severe injuries and also has epilepsy.


Disability Rights Commission Helpline, 08457 622 633 or see www.drc-gb.org

Spinal Injuries Association, 76 St. James's Lane, London N10 3DF, tel: 020 8444 2121

bp

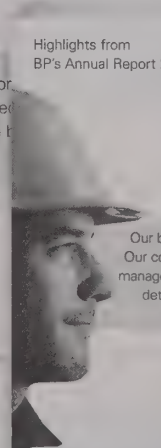


Highlights from BP's Annual Report 2002



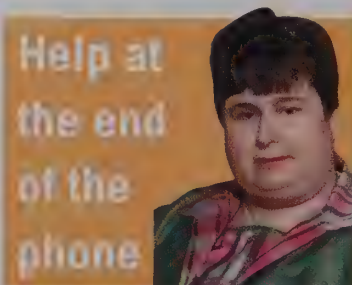
Our business is strong. Our company is soundly managed. Our people are determined to be the best in their field.

Highlights from BP's Annual Report 2002



Our business is strong. Our company is soundly managed. Our people are determined to be the best in their field.

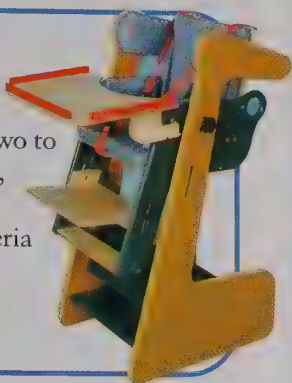
If you would like to learn more about BP, please telephone our Distribution Services on 0870 241 3269 for a free copy of our CD or audio cassette with highlights from our Annual Report 2002.



DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psychotherapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.

Bright ideas

Wouldn't it be great if there was a highchair out there that grew with your child? Well, with the Girrelephant chair, now there is. Aimed at two to eight-year-olds who need supportive seating, the chair features an adjustable seat height and a large, easily cleanable water and bacteria resistant eating tray. Prices start at £350. Contact Hibau Ltd, tel: 01304 204203, or see www.girrelephant.info



Hey kids (young and old): fancy an alternative to those rotten bikes which require the balance of a ballerina to stay on? Thanks to the people at Generations, you can have a three or four wheeled pedal go-kart or a hand powered trike. These stable low-riders feature bundles of custom features, including adjustable steering and seat positions, hip supports, chest straps and that all important handbrake. Versions with sidecars and companion side-by-side drive are also available. Put your peddle to the floor and find out more! Tel: 01509 210321



Is there an artist inside you screaming to get out, but stays there because visiting an art shop is impossible? If so, then the Homecraft catalogue could be just the thing to put the colour in your cheeks. It contains a myriad of products including paints, pens, brushes and cutters to help you create your masterpieces. Go on, give boredom the elbow and get a catalogue. Tel: 01623 757555

Do you get sick of eating and drinking from items that look awful? Check out the new landscape tableware and glassware range from Lisa-Dionne Morris. It includes glasses and plates that have been "landscaped" to make them easier to use for people with disabilities, including arthritis and rheumatism. The designer has won Lord Snowdon's award for creative disability design. Contact Lisa-Dionne direct, tel: 01226 249590

Bathtime should be a time for relaxation, but what if your tub doesn't give you the space to do this? Kingkraft's Contour bath should be deep and long enough for most people to sprawl out and get a good soak. Available in standard and longer versions, the Contour has a drop sided, adjustable height door design and an integrated bath filler. The Contour comes with a variety of supports and cushions and, if you feel like pushing the boat out, a whirlpool system can be added to liven up bathtime even more. Tel: 01298 872309

Quality vehicles for wheelchair users

Front door

Whether you choose up front travel in the unique **Constables CarChair System**, or the comfort of your own wheelchair in the conventional position of our **Openroad** range of vehicles, you can rely on the innovation and quality of engineering that goes into all our vehicles to ensure safe, comfortable travel at affordable prices.

Rear door

CarChair™
SYSTEM

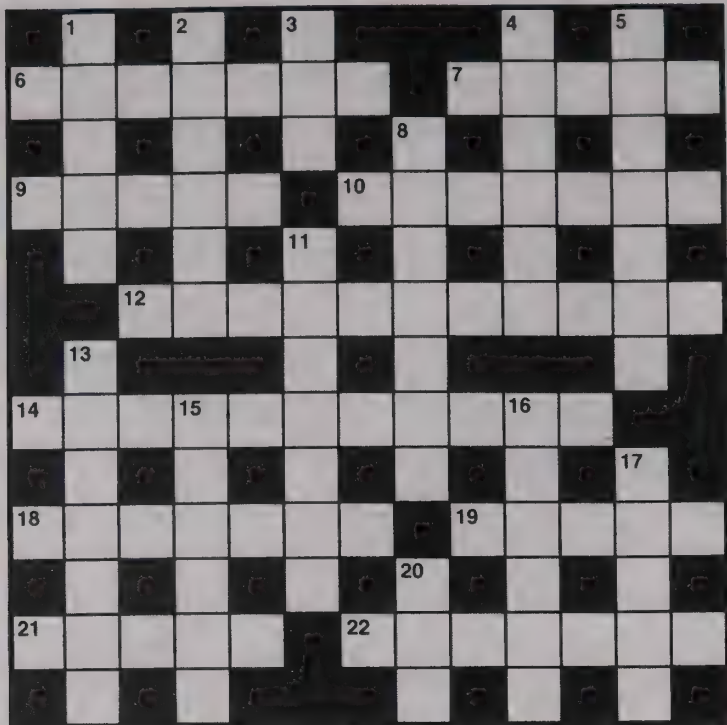
Openroad™

Your door

With our Head Office based in East Sussex and our new Scottish Office now open, we are able to show you why Constables are the name behind quality vehicles for wheelchair users. Simply call Head Office on **01323 76 75 74** or if you are in Scotland **01738 850 777** and we will bring the vehicle of your choice to your door for a free, no obligation home demonstration. Alternatively call us for a copy of our brochure.

>> Our Scottish office is now open contact 01738 850 777 << >> Our Scottish office is now open

Constables Limited
Head Office: Mountney Bridge Business Park
Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5NJ
T: 01323 76 75 74 F: 01323 767603
E: info@constablesmobility.com
www.constablesmobility.com



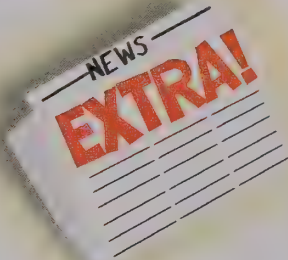
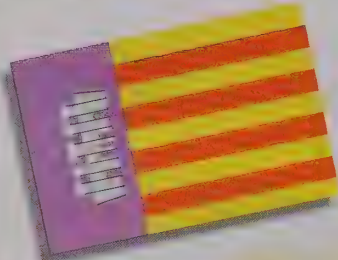
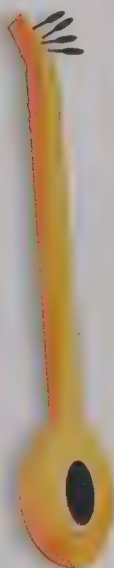
ACROSS

- 6. And 4 Down. Ex-boxer who featured on the cover of April's *Disability Now* (7,6)
- 7. Capital of Majorca (5)
- 9. And 13 Down. He performed *Three Lions* with Frank Skinner and The Lightning Seeds (5,7)
- 10. Infectious disease marked by a red rash (7)
- 12. Denise Leigh was joint winner on this television programme (11)
- 14. These will take place in Athens in 2004 (11)
- 18. Copies of a newspaper issued at one time (7)
- 19. And 16 Down. All-girl group whose albums include *Home, Fly and Wide Open Spaces* (5,6)
- 21. Arsenal's fabulous French striker (5)
- 22. Luke, the teenage author of *Freaks, Geeks & Asperger Syndrome* (7)

DOWN

- 1. Indian long-necked lute (5)
- 2. Small crustacean, pink when boiled (6)
- 3. Barlow, the veteran *Coronation Street* character (3)
- 4. See 6 Across
- 5. _____ International works to protect human rights worldwide (7)
- 8. Nazi secret police (7)
- 11. He succeeded Bruce Forsyth as host of *The Generation Game* (7)
- 13. See 9 Across
- 15. Sean Penn, Dougray Scott and Paul Newman (6)
- 16. See 19 Across
- 17. North American buffalo (5)
- 20. Ruby, a star of *Celebrity Fame Academy* (3)

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN
ILLUSTRATION BY SAM GILLESPIE
ANSWERS ON PAGE 40



CANDID DAN

MAY BE AWAY, BUT HE'LL BE BACK!

“Nothing was any trouble,
everybody was wonderful when we went
to see Gowrings Mobility,”

Mr & Mrs Smith of Gloucester



After Irene's husband had a heart attack and a stroke on the same day she needed help. After she'd come to see us she knew she'd get it. Their Kangoo has changed their lives and meant that they've even joined a couple of new clubs, they recommend Gowrings Mobility to everybody.

We understand the Mobility needs of wheelchair passengers and offer a great combination of personal service and a wide choice of vehicles. Find out how we can help your situation.

- **FREE no obligation nationwide test drive** and demonstration service
- **Widest range of** converted vehicles
- **Friendly and experienced** advisors
- The UK's **leading manufacturer** of wheelchair passenger vehicles
- All servicing carried out at your **local garage**

To receive a **FREE** information pack simply ring our Lo-call number 0845 608 8020 or fill in the coupon below



Lo-Call 0845 608 8020

www.gowringsmobility.co.uk

Please complete and return this coupon to:
Gowrings Mobility, FREEPOST, Bone Lane, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5ZW.

Mr/Mrs/Miss First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Home Tel.

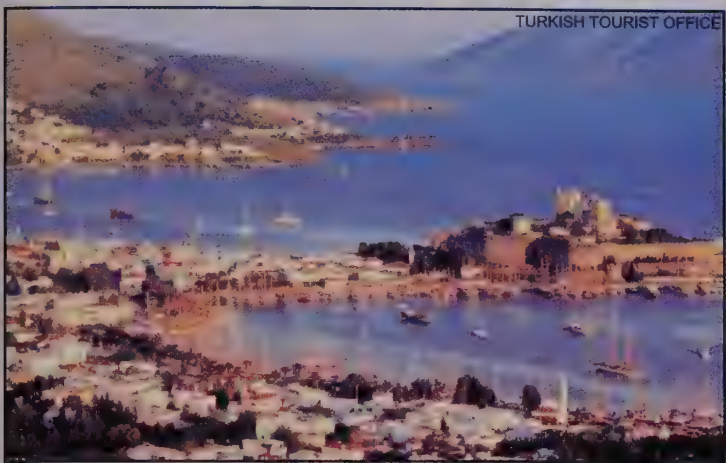
- ☐ Send me more information
- ☐ Contact me to organise a test drive

 **Motability** accredited supplier

**gowrings
mobility**

FCP-DN-05/03

CRUISE THE MED!



TURKISH TOURIST OFFICE

We are excited to be able to offer you the chance of sailing on the fastest cruise ship afloat – the 25,000 ton Olympia Voyager.

The 836 berth liner has state-of-the-art facilities including a pool, a choice of bars and lounges, a casino, disco, hairdresser, spa, hospital, formal and informal dining rooms and a range of international entertainment.

The spacious Deluxe Ocean View staterooms are fully equipped for disabled passengers and all have a TV, safe and mini bar.

Departs 15 June. Fly from London to Genoa, then sail the Mediterranean to Italy, Greece and Turkey (above).

8 DAYS FOR ONLY £699 per person

Price includes port taxes, seven night cruise in a deluxe Ocean View Stateroom, all entertainment and meals while onboard and return flights.

Limited availability. For more information and bookings call Cotswold Cruise Club on lo-call 0845 2302900.

*All offers are applicable to new bookings only and are subject to availability. All prices are correct at time of publication and may be withdrawn without prior notice at any time. Prices are based on maximum occupancy of selected cabin grade. Price changes may occur or additional cruise operator changes may apply: please check at time of booking. All reservations are subject to standard booking terms and conditions as detailed in the cruise company's main brochure. A credit card surcharge (to maximum amount) will be applied to credit transactions.

DN TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Address

E-mail

Do you travel overseas? Yes ☐ No ☐

How often?

Favourite destination?

Have you ever been on a cruise? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you use a wheelchair? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like to know about our Sensory Travel service for people with visual and hearing impairments? Yes ☐ No ☐

Send this form to Accessible Travel and Leisure, Avionics House, Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Glos., GL2 2SN England

Rules & Regulations

1. Applicants will be issued with a membership number which must be quoted at the time of booking. Otherwise no discounts or special offers will apply once a confirmation of booking has been issued.
2. Discounts and special offers will apply to the member and all other parties booking under the same lead name/party organiser, unless expressly indicated otherwise in the relevant DN Travel Club offer.
3. Membership of the DN Travel Club will be valid as long as the DN Travel Club remains in operation. In the event of cessation of the DN Travel Club, one month's notice will be given in *Disability Now*.
4. Any discounts offered will be deducted from the final balance.

JUBILEE

Automotive Group Ltd

Best designs : Best engineered : Best prices

Drive from Wheelchair

Total independence is no longer just a dream.

Suzuki Life has arrived and it is set to revolutionize the life-style opportunities for wheelchair users all over the UK

- * Fully automated wheelchair access and lock down
- * Looks and drives just like any other compact motor car.
- * Ease of access for both manual or electric wheelchair users.
- * Additional seating along side the driver & also in the rear
- * No special wheelchairs needed; drive directly from your own



• Motability

Wheelchair Accessible MPV's

Seat Alhambra Liberty

We believe that they are probably the best engineered and certainly the most stylish wheelchair accessible MPV's on offer in the UK today.

They are equipped with our superbly finished, state of the art drop floor conversion and fold out ramp system providing elegant transportation for up to 6 passengers and are available with automatic transmission.

£19,795

They're great for transporting scooters too

• Motability



Wheelchair Accessible Cars

Vauxhall Agila & Suzuki Wagon R

Full wheelchair access in a compact modern motor car... YES

Our revolutionary 'Liberty' versions of these popular high roof cars are totally unique in combining super easy wheelchair access, low cost affordability & small car practicality with optional automatic gearbox if required. As usual at Jubilee, our adaptations are beautifully engineered to complement the stylish image of these amazing vehicles



£9,995

They're great for transporting scooters too

• Motability

Wheelchair Accessible MPV's

Mercedes Benz Vaneo Liberty

With almost 60 inches of head room for the wheelchair occupant our latest addition to the 'Liberty' range is set to be a real winner.

It's a proper, luxury MPV adapted by us to complement its refined image and Mercedes Benz heritage but offered at a truly affordable price with factory options for a fully automatic gearbox or diesel engine.

£17,995

They're great for transporting scooters too

• Motability



Wheelchair Accessible & Wheelchair Driver MPV's

Mercedes Benz V Class

The ultimate in either wheelchair accessible or wheelchair driver solutions, our most comprehensive range of Mercedes Benz V Class luxury MPV's is renowned as the UK's most prestigious and versatile mobility vehicle

From simple ramp access right up to fully automated wheelchair driver adaptations our V Class stands alone as the market leader for those who require truly dignified wheelchair transportation without the need to compromise



£20,995

Available with 'Along side the driver' wheelchair passenger

We also have an excellent selection of quality used mobility vehicles

and all of our vehicles are available on hire from the Motability Finance plan

brochures : home demonstrations : test drives

0121 502 2252

www.jubileeauto.co.uk

Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ

Publications

The Guild of Experienced Motorists and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust have published *Personal Safety on the Road*. Written for all motorists, but with a special emphasis towards female motorists, it gives practical advice to road users on how to manage in situations such as a crash or breakdown, what to pack in an emergency kit, travelling at night and safety seats. It also

discusses how to avoid difficult situations and how to retain control if they arise, and includes an accident witness form and details on the key elements of car maintenance. Free. Tel: 01342 825676, website: www.roadsafety.org.uk

The Policy Press, in association with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, has released a new series of

publications looking at social care, race and ethnicity. Titles include *Invisible Families*, which looks at the strengths and needs of black families in which young people have caring responsibilities and *Short Breaks*, which looks at providing better access and more choice for black disabled children and their families. Other new publications include *Money Well Spent*, which discusses

the effectiveness and value of housing adaptations and *Disability, Mental Health and Parenting*. From £10.95. Available from Marston Book Services, tel: 01235 465500.

Contact a Family have produced an audio tape version of their booklet, *When Your Child Has Additional Needs*. Aimed at visually impaired parents or those who have reading

difficulties, the tape gives information on help they may be able to get when bringing up a disabled child. It also explains the roles of professionals that parents can expect to come into contact with, and how they may be able to support parents. Free for parents, £1.50 for professionals. Tel: 0808 808 3555 (10am-4pm, Monday-Friday), email: helpline@cafamilly.org.uk

What's on

Health Links will hold Mind the Gap 3 - Learning from Innovation and Experience, 1-2 July, National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham.

Aimed at key personnel in the NHS, the conference and accompanying exhibition, made up of major organisations dealing with intermediate care, will cover topics including rehabilitation, supported

discharge, rapid response, hospital at home, carers and the role of GP's and nurses with a special interest. Tel: 0121 559 3446.

The Frida Network will hold a health information workshop for disabled lesbians, 8 May, 10.30am-3.30pm, 52 Featherstone Street, London EC1. The workshop will provide

gynaecological and sexual health information and opportunities to share experiences and knowledge and raise issues of sexual health and gynaecology affecting disabled lesbians. Contact Debbie or Tabitha for more information or to book a place, tel: 020 7251 6333, fax: 020 7250 4152, email: outreach@womenshealthlondon.org.uk

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 6. Michael 7. Palma 9. David 10. Measles 12. Operatunity 14. Paralmpics 18. Edition 19. Dixie 21. Henry 22. Jackson

DOWN: 1. Sitar 2. Shrimp 3. Ken 4. Watson 5. Amnesty 8. Gestapo 11. Grayson 13. Baddiel 15. Actors 16. Chicks 17. Bison 20. Wax

Services

The British Council of Disabled People have a new transcription service available. The service aims to provide the private, public and voluntary sectors with information to help them comply with the Disability Discrimination Act in accessible formats including Braille, easy words and pictures, large print, videos with British Sign Language subtitles, CD rom with voice over, and on computer disk. The service will also attempt to meet individual format requirements and offer a training and consultancy facility. Tel: 01332 295551, minicom: 01332 295581, email: services@bcodp.org.uk

Computer equipment

Computing charity **Abilitynet** have put together a kit featuring items to make computer technology accessible to people with physical disabilities and visual impairments. Aimed at professionals and organisations working in the disability field, the kit includes different shaped and sized keyboards, mouse alternatives, laptrays, wrists rests, a screen magnifier, dyslexia and literacy software and more. A simple user guide and training for support staff are also included. Free after sales advice is also available. £3,500. Tel: 0800 269 545, website: www.abilitynet.org.uk

CREATING NEW HORIZONS WITH INVATRAVEL



As a long established company, Invatravel provide factory built people carriers, specially for the needs of those with disabilities.

Caravelle

- Various access options available
- Rear or side, ramp or lift
- Options include disabled driver independence
- Prices from **£18,000** ranging to **£35,000**

Six way drivers seat base

- To ease transfer from wheelchair
- Powers forward and back
- Powers up and down
- Rotates through 90°

Hi-Liner

- Caters for the taller wheelchair user
- 58" access through the door and internal height by a lowered floor section
- Low (12 degrees) angle ramp
- When stationary the roof can be elevated to give approx 8 foot internal height making transfers a lot easier

**Come and see us at the
Mobility Roadshow
June 12th, 13th & 14th**



INVATRAVEL
CONVERSIONS LTD

Established 1983

97 Lytham Road,
Southport,
Merseyside PR9 9UG

Telephone: 01704 506608

Fax: 01704 506607

E-mail: sales@invatravel.com

www.invatravel.com

www.scoot.co.uk/

invatravel_conversions



**Commercial
Vehicles**

Recognised Converter

USED CONVERTED CARAVELLES IN STOCK

• Recruitment (on pages 42 to 46)

• Holidays (cont'd pg 43)

WE NEED A HAND

Yours

We're actively recruiting from all sections of the disabled community. The black community. The asian community. The gay community. The white community. The whole community

A diverse workforce will make us better able to meet the care needs of the equally diverse patient population which we serve. It's dedication like this that makes us one of the country's leading hospital Trusts.

For more information call
020 7955 8853
or email diversity@gstf.sthames.nhs.uk

Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital **NHS**
NHS Trust

blueyedsoul dance .com

require a

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

30 hrs per week - £22k pro rata

SAE (A4): Pimley Barns, Sundome Rd, Shrewsbury SY4 4SA

E: admin@blueyedsouldance.com • T: 01743 271900

Closing date: 23rd May

Blue Eyed Soul creates quality innovative dance work that embraces difference.

disabilitynowfortnightly

DNEXTRA...

MAKING IT EASY FOR YOU

From April 03, you will no longer need to wait a month to advertise your vacancies. Should you miss the main issue of **disabilitynow**, you will now be able to advertise in the new mid-month May 2003 supplement, **DNEXTRA...**

Book and copy by 30th April 2003

For more information, contact Patrick Durham-Matthews on 020 7619 7320, email: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Disabled travellers, don't miss this spacious luxury adapted bungalow. Overlooking Golf Course. 3 bedrooms/2 bathrooms (Mangar bathlift). Cable TV. 2 Telephones. FREE Country Club Membership. 10 minutes airport. 20 minutes Disney World. For availability/booking contact paraplegic owner:- Sue Fisher
Tel/Fax: **0161 792 3029**.

ROYAL DEESIDE SCOTLAND

4 superb self-catering cottages located on the banks of the River Dee next to Balmoral. Designed and equipped to the highest standard with excellent facilities for disabled people, their families and friends. Short breaks available November - March. Please contact CRATHIE OPPORTUNITY HOLIDAYS
Tel: 01339 742100 for more details or email: info@crathieholidays.org.uk
www.crathieholidays.org.uk

LUXURY CHALET IN POOLE, DORSET

Beautiful views. Disabled friendly.
Ring Jill for details
Tel: 01525 379349 after 6pm.
Mobile: 07743 060406 (day)

Book early to avoid disappointment.

CAREFREE HOLIDAYS SPAIN

Traditional Spanish farmhouse on the Costa Calida. Guesthouse or self catering. Fully wheelchair accessible. Heated pool. Open all year. Adapted minibus for airport transfers and excursions.
For brochure Pat & John Bartlam Phone: 0034 679725495. email: pbartlam@hotmail.com

Great self-catering in South West Wales Swyn-y-Gwynt Cottage

Sleeps 4, fabulous views, flawless luxury. TV, linen, power all included.
Tel: 01267 237261
E-mail: antony.griew@virgin.net
Accessibility Grade 1



Central Devon: 3 comfortable ground floor manor farmhouse apartments, wheelchair accessible. Picturesque, peaceful situation, on-site coarse fishing. Half mile Crediton, 8 miles Exeter. No smoking/pets. Ideal holiday base. Optional extra breakfast.
Tel: 01363 772684, www.creedymanor.com

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY HOMES IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you.
Call or fax Ed Passant on 01233 731 097 or e-mail: ed.passant@mail.com web: www.accessholidays.com

CYPRUS - Paphos & Polis
Villas/cottages, some "disabled friendly" for 2-10 persons.
Own pools. Phone Irene: 020 8440 6219 www.irisvillas.com

Brittany Cottage to let.
Adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6.
Details **C. Hodgson**.
Tel (01924) 499220.

Wheelchair accessible gite in South West France

Tranquil holiday destination in rural LOT region (famous for its gastronomy and its wine). Picturesque small town of Montcuq with fantastic Sunday market 2 miles. Swimming pool on site. Renovated with disabled people in mind (lift to all levels, wheel in showers, powered wheelchair and electric scooter available at no extra cost). Sleeps 8.
Email: clementisabelle@yahoo.co.uk or call 020 8674 8761.

JERSEY

La Rocco SELF-CATERING APARTMENTS

Special prices late April/May
Offering panoramic views over St Ouens Bay. Apartments with disabled facilities, accommodating 2-8 persons.
For free brochure:
tel: 01534 743378, fax: 01534 746844,
e-mail: larocco@localdial.com
website: <http://jerseyisland.com/stbrelade/lorocco>

CAREWELL HOLIDAYS

Looking for a happy suitable holiday?
We specialize in finding suitable accommodation for disabled persons of all abilities, age groups, and interests.
We can also arrange assistance from health care professionals if required. For information on booking a holiday in accessible self-catering cottages, hotels, or farm house B&Bs please ring and speak to a holiday adviser.
Tel: 01437 563565. email: info@carewellholidays.co.uk
www.carewellholidays.co.uk
To find out about listing your accommodation please contact us.

CARIBBEAN, ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES.

Two fully wheelchair accessible, self-catering apartments with wheel-in shower and toilet. Each sleeps 2 / 4 people. Stunning view of the sea and a chain of islands. Large garden area. Wheelchair accessible van also available. Free airport pick up. Activities include accessible beach, scuba / snorkel coral reefs, sailing and mountain and volcano treks. Open all year. Contact Don on 01865 724542 or email donboy667@hotmail.com

SOUTH OF FRANCE - SUN

New fully accessible house, 3 to 4 beds, English owner next door. Near Carcassonne. By air - Stansted direct or motorail to Narbonne. Tel: 0033 468788761 or 01953 452145.

COSTA DEL SOL

Wheelchairs, Electric scooters, bath & WC seats, commodes and more for hire
T: 0845 6442892 **MobilityAbroad**
www.mobilityabroad.co.uk

ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL

Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled person and their family. We have full disabled facilities and are able to cater for organised parties. All wheelchair accessible rooms open on to a private garden with conservatory and have breathtaking sea views. Private car park with unloading at entrance to the hotel. Open all year.
Why not escape and relax at delightful Babbacombe, Torquay? Category 2.
Special 3-4 day breaks Nov-April. Discount for group bookings. Tel: (01803) 313457.

BRYN MEIRION LODGE

Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey, North Wales, LL74 8SR. Tel: 01248 853118
Hotel adapted for wheelchair users.
Ensuite specialised rooms with ceiling hoists and electric beds.
Also available 1 self-catering unit.
Book now to avoid disappointment.

BE NEXT TO THE SEA AT HEYSHAM

Magnificent view. miles of level promenade.
Wheelchair friendly, tracking and portable hoists.
Bakery beds, mobile chair for ensuite shower/toilet.
3 bedrooms/lounge/dining kitchen/study/tv/dvd.
Close to Lakeland, Bowland, RSPB reserves etc.
Free cycles and telescope use.
For more information and bookings, telephone Allan or Jan on: 01274 588142.

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Lots of villas, farmhouses, bungalows, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans and plenty to see and do.
Contact: David Player
Tel: 00 351 289 393636
Fax: 00 351 289 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt
www.player.pt

Near Salisbury - newly converted stable block

self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs 1 double, 1 single, shower room. Open plan kitchen & living room. Patio & shared garden. ETB category 2, 4-star highly commended. Non-smoking. Prices from £195 pw. Available all year. Tel: 01722 349002. e-mail: mail@old-stables.co.uk, www.old-stables.co.uk



• Holidays (cont'd)

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL
"Holiday Care Award Winners"
 Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.
 Please ring or write for colour brochure.
R&N Hall, Penrose Burden,
St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall
PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin
(01208) 850277 or 850617

NAISH HOLIDAY VILLAGE:
 Clifftop park with "excellent" status. New Milton, Hampshire. Excellent site facilities within 100 yards, with indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, two bedroom fully wheelchair accessible, log cabin accommodation. Sleeps 6. Well furnished. Free club membership.

GRANGE COURT HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Park with "good" status, Goodrington Sands, Devon. Excellent site facilities within short walk, with indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, 2 bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible mobile home. Sleeps 4-6, well appointed. Free club membership. (Purchased with funds from the National Lottery).

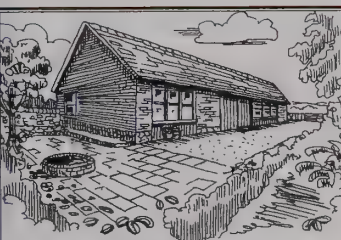
Details: Mr P Cash, tel: (01425) 672055
 Bournemouth Spina Bifida Association.
 Registered Charity No. 261914.

Willow Cottage - The Black Isle, 5 mins drive Inverness.
 Beautifully equipped. Tourist Board 3 stars with Disability Award 2.
 1 double, 1 twin, both ensuite. Situated on a working croft amid lovely scenery with wildlife park close by. Moray Firth dolphins, kites, buzzards, deer etc, and our Nessie! Inverness offers good food, cinema, theatre etc.
 Brochure/details, tel: 01463 731455, website:
 www.highlanddisabledcottageholidays.co.uk

Norfolk, Nar Valley Holiday Cottages

3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location, central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool. Also B&B.

More details and prices, contact:
Rosemary on 01760 338797.



Take a break at Jay's Barn

Jay's Barn (sleeps 4) has been specifically designed & rebuilt for disabled people. Beautifully situated in its own grounds/garden. Easy access to Alton Towers, Peak District, The Potteries, or enjoy a visit to one of the level routes in the locality. Open all year. £230 off peak £300 peak per week. Also short-term lets. 1 double bedroom, single wheelchair users welcome. Payphone, no smoking, no pets (guide dogs accepted), linen and towels provided. ETB 3* Level 1 National Access Scheme.

Ring Christine Babb on 01889 507444.
 Jay's Barn, Bradley in the Moors, near Alton, Staffordshire Moorlands ST10 4DF.
 email: jaysbarn@lineone.net www.jaysbarn.co.uk

Woodhead Cottage
Dulnain Bridge, Speyside.

Cosy cottage by private woodland setting with attractive bird/wildlife. Great Highland holiday/touring base. Highest disabled category STB approved. 3 bedrooms, one with ensuite ceiling track/hoist to bed, toilet and bath. Level wheel-in chair shower, highly recommended by wheelchair user. Sleeps 6. For brochure contact:
 Ian & Catriona Shearer, tel: 01479 851298.

Full wheelchair access **Acres of beautiful grounds**

Ashwellthorpe Hall Hotel is an historic Elizabethan manor house full of charm and character. The hotel is fully accessible with excellent and extensive facilities particularly for people with severe disabilities (e.g. ceiling hoists) whilst retaining all the services and ambience of an ordinary hotel. Everyone is assured of a warm and friendly welcome. Good food a speciality.

Tel: 01508 489324

Norwich, Norfolk, NR16 1EX

Email: book@ashwellthorpehall.org.uk

See us at: www.ashwellthorpehall.org.uk

Algarve Carvoeiro

Spacious private villa with pool overlooking golf course. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms including wheel-in shower. Totally level throughout. For more information call
Debbie Wells on 01277 354313

• Recruitment (on pages 42 to 46)

Support for disabled people

If you have a disability or health condition that affects your chances of finding or keeping a job, ask to see a Disability Employment Adviser, based in your local Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus office.

They can provide:

- help with finding and keeping a job
- information on training
- support with benefit entitlement and programmes like New Deal; and
- advice on employing people with disabilities.



JobCentre



Part of the Department for Work and Pensions

Contact your local Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus office for further information.

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

• Services



BIRKDALE PAEDIATRIC & ADULT NEURO CLINIC

Advice and treatment for babies and children.

Conditions treated are movement and learning difficulties, posture and balance, walking and balance, coordination and hand function.

Cerebral palsy, and children with neurological conditions. Farshideh Bondarenko DIP (PHYSIO) MCSP SRP

website: www.neuro-physio.co.uk

Tel: 020 8998 9403.

DEADLINES: Disability Now June 2003 published 24th May
classified deadlines: Booking: 9 May. Copy: 13 May.

• For sale

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE

2002 02 Toyota 2.5TD, cruiser & tail lift, 3,000 miles	£14,750
2001 51 Grand Voyager TD Chairman, 1 owner, low mileage	£22,750
2001 51 Sharan Sport TDi, Automotive Group	£18,995
2001 Y VW Caddy, low mileage, P.A.S., air con	£11,995
2000 W VW TD LWB, 1 owner, 8,000 miles	£12,750
2000 W Suzuki Wagon R Liberty, 1 owner, 28,000 miles	£6,995
2000 W Dispatch Chairman, 1 owner, 6,000 miles	£12,250
1999 V Escort Chairman diesel, 44,000 miles, PAS, 1 owner	£9,500
1999 V Kangoo Chairman 1.2, 1 owner, 10,000 miles	£8,250
1999 V Expert TD, 1 owner, 32,000 miles, electrics & A/C	£12,250
1999 T Ford Courier, Universal, 22,000 miles, P.A.S.	£7,995
1998 R Fiat Fiorino TD, Universal Mobility, 34,000 miles	£5,750
1997 R Sharan Automotive 2.0GL, 1 owner, 38,000 miles	£12,500
1997 P Scudo Chairman, 22,000 miles, vision panel	£8,995
1996 P Brotherwood Courier Diesel, P.A.S., 2 owners	£6,495
1996 P Traffic LWB, hi-top, day camper, tail lift, 19,000 miles	£8,995
1994 L Brotherwood Serena 1.6, 54,000 miles, P.A.S. Winch	£5,995
1992 J Brotherwood Prairie MK2, High roof	£5,495
Kangoo & Berlingo models	Choice of 12
Traffic & Vanette Cargo models	Choice of 11

A selection of 50 WAVs from £2,750 fully serviced with warranty. Demo and delivery anywhere in UK mainland free. Part exchange and vehicles sought for purchase.

CLARKE MOBILITY
SNODLAND, KENT

01634 243596
www.gfclarke.com

• Activity break

EAST MERSEA ACTIVITY CENTRE
MERSEA ISLAND
ESSEX CO5 8SX

Inclusive Adventure Camping Breaks
MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL
 for people with disabilities and their friends

At £32/day, including all meals, try your hand at a host of new activities and dance the night away. Sun 17th - Fri 22nd Aug or/and Fri 22nd - Mon 25th Aug. 01206 382940 / telephone or write for more info.



"We care for your care"

Electric Reclining Chairs

Mobility Scooters

Stairs Lifts

Invalid Accessories

Batteries

Electric Wheelchairs



www.graveshammobility.co.uk

GRAVESHAM MOBILITY

38-40 Perry Street
North Fleet
Kent DA11 8RE
Tel: 01474 564897

SALES SERVICE HIRE

Powerchairs Mobility Consultants
 New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 Wheel Scooters.
 All models wanted and for sale.
Ring Free anytime
0800 074 6834
 All major credit cards accepted

SALES & REPAIRS

Scooters/Power Chairs
 Lightweight Wheelchairs
 Walking Aids
 Electric Riser/Recliners
 Stairlifts/Bathlifts
 Household Aids
 Insurance & Finance

Batteries Best Prices

LIFeStyle UK - Tel: 0121 321 1441

4 Chester Road, Beggars Bush, Sutton Coldfield B73 3DA
 Across from Tesco

Accessible Vehicle Register

We specialise in locating used vehicles to suit the specific needs of our customers. If you are looking for an accessible vehicle or have one to dispose of, contact Adam Price. We also supply and install all forms of access equipment.

01202 814112
 adam.price@lineone.net

COTSWOLD COTS

Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.

New Products Extra Strong Playpens.
 Extra Large Stairgates.
 Fitted Padded Play Areas.

High Quality **Fair prices**
 Information Phone 01993 842885



RADAR is the lead pan-disability campaigning organisation of and for disabled people. Our vision is of a society where human difference is routinely anticipated, expertly accommodated and positively celebrated. Following a major review – New Spirit @ RADAR – we are looking for talented people to take the organisation through its next phase of development and drive forward with our recently launched campaign manifesto – the Seven Year Itch.



Campaigns Director c £45,000

The primary architect of RADAR's campaigns you will be a dynamic and systematic individual with a good track record in campaigning, influence and change. Heading up a small team you will take lead responsibility in delivering a fresh portfolio of branded campaigns. Designated for a disabled person.

Head of Administration c £28,000

Ensuring management have quality finance, office administration and personnel support will be your role. You will be known for your accurate financial data systems and for getting things done.

Membership and Events Manager c £27,000

Securing more members, primarily disability organisations of and for disabled people, you will be central to RADAR's desire to engage members with campaign activities. You will take the lead in ensuring RADAR members tap into our services and provide a small programme of networking events. Designated for a disabled person.

Information Manager c £23,000

Providing a quality information service to members about our campaigning activities, you will have a good track record in information provision.

Administration Assistant c £14,000

This might be your first job and you will be eager to learn how to provide support to the administration function of a small charity. You will be a good all-rounder, a fast typist and keen to set up quality administration systems.

Sales and Sponsorship Manager c £27,000 + performance bonus

Primary responsibilities are to manage our sales-team in achieving advertising sales targets in RADAR publications and to develop sustainable relationships and sponsorship opportunities with the corporate sector.

All jobs are based at RADAR's offices in Islington, London [except Sales and Sponsorship Manager primarily based in Croydon]. For an application pack contact: Director's office. Telephone: **020 7566 0112**. Minicom: **020 7250 4119**. Email: **jobs@radar.org.uk**

Deadline: 20th May. Accessible application formats available on request.

RADAR strongly welcomes applications from disabled people in all its roles.

Come check us out!

Putting people first and tailoring services to their needs

Creating access to the Built Environment

Building an Inclusive Society –

Promoting Equal Opportunities for all people in employment

You can locate our jobs bulletin on the Internet at:

www.salford.gov.uk/jobs/

Tel: 0161 909 6503

Minicom: 0161 909 6527



City of Salford

Churchill & Friend
TRAINING & CONSULTANCY LIMITED



Disability Management at Work

Senior Caseworker and Caseworkers required

Churchill & Friend Ltd are acknowledged as one of the UK's leading authorities on disability and diversity issues advising both private and public sector organisations. Due to our continued expansion we require a number of staff with expertise in managing disability at work. We are currently looking to recruit a team of Caseworkers and a Senior Caseworker.

If you have experience in the following areas we would like to hear from you:

- Giving advice concerning the employment and retention of disabled people
- Knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act and "Reasonable Adjustments"
- Occupational health and human resources
- Case Management
- In addition to the above the Senior Caseworker should have experience of supervising Caseworkers or their equivalents

All applicants should be self-motivated and have excellent communication skills, e.g. written, telephone, and face to face. You will work with a variety of people including disabled people, line managers and third party service providers so evidence of experience in a similar environment would be a distinct advantage. You need to be able to keep meticulous records and be experienced in general administration. It is essential that you are a competent user of Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets. Our office is based in Welwyn Garden City and the Senior Caseworker will spend most of their time based here. As the Caseworker role may involve some travel and overnight stays, applicants should be able to travel and costs will be reimbursed. There will be office based administrative support.

The Caseworker position attracts a salary of £25,000 pa with 4 weeks holiday per annum.

The Senior Caseworkers salary will be adjusted accordingly to reflect both experience and the additional responsibility.

Churchill & Friend will make any necessary reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants and particularly welcomes applications from suitably qualified people with a personal knowledge of disability. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Applications in writing to: Churchill & Friend Ltd, Weltech Centre, Ridgeway, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 2AA
Tel: **01707 324466** Email: **office@churchillandfriend.com**

OLIVETTI ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER. Cost £1,000, 6 months old. Only £30. Tel: 01953 454818.

ROYAMS CHAIR AS new incorporating Relaxor 3 massage system. Suitable for use with pacemaker. Hand control set operates recliner lift and therapy treatment. Original price £2,000 includes 5 year guarantee from May 2002. £1,600 ono. Tel: 020 8567 3632.

STANNAH STAIRLIFT, SINGLE flight, buyer removes. £175. Tel: 01753 886066.

RECLINER/RISER ELECTRIC powered chair. Lazyboy, 18 months' old. £550. Tel: 01753 886066.

• Lift

THROUGH-FLOOR VERTICAL Wessex lift, regularly serviced, good working order. £1,500. Tel: 01273 709817.

ELECTRIC RECLINING LIFT and rise chair, Sherborne Henley model covered in oban blue figured dralon. Cost over £1,000 in May 2002, used for only 4 months, as new, £600. Tel: 07774 103525.

• Wanted

DESPERATE 9 YEAR old girl seeks rear access vehicle up to £10,000. Preferably, Volkswagen Sharan or similar (not a van). Please call my mummy on 01179 866755.

Cont'd pg 45

• Accommodation

HOUSE WITH LIFT: London N5. spacious family house converted for easy wheelchair living. 4 beds, wide doors, low level kitchen, raised flower beds, lift to all floors. Close to Highbury Fields, 5 minutes from tube and shops. In excellent order throughout. £720,000 Freehold. Tel: 020 7689 2505.

LONDON GROUND FLOOR flat, two bedrooms, Highbury (N5), suitable for wheelchair no wider than 67 cms rear wheel span. One step at front door, steep ramped access from car park. Located in lovely Georgian building. Opposite park and close to shops. Secure parking. £280,000. Tel: 020 7359 4053.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE - FOR sale, four bedroom detached house plus special three room extension to suit disabled person comprising large bedroom with built in low level wardrobe and chest of drawers, luxury bathroom with roll-in shower, bath with chair lift and clos-o-mat toilet. All access ramped, no steps, to nice garden and side entrance to drive which holds min. four cars. Must be seen. £360,000. Telephone 01844 354956.

BATTERSEA HOUSE, GROUND floor: wheelchair friendly, main room approx 26x11 ft with adjoining shower room. Ramp from kitchen to west facing garden, patio, lawn and pond. 1st floor: 3 bed, bathroom, airing cupboard, fitted carpets. Gch, burglar and fire alarm. Near shops, restaurants, bus routes. £500,000 ono. Tel: 020 7228 3165.

• Combined

POWERTEC ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR with batteries and charger, 4 mph, 25 miles, £400. Electrically operated rising armchair (C&R Wall, made of fire resistant materials) little used and as good as new) £500. Shower proof wheelchair nearly new (Freeway T40) £130. Rising electrically inflatable pillow (Mangar Handy Pillow Lift) £200. Folding wheelchair £50. Frame to be placed over toilet £20. Swivel seat for car £20. Tel: 01274 582959.

SUNTEC MANUAL WHEELCHAIR s/1 18" x 18", black, good condition, £80 ono. Everest Jennings wheelchair, 17", beige, £50 ono. Richmond electric riser/recliner burgundy armchair. Very good condition, 18 months' old, £300 ono. Tel: 01291 626718.

TGA POWERPACK WHEELCHAIR motor, only used a couple of times, paid £900, only asking £500. Fully electric solid wood handmade bed, elevating/reclining headpiece and footrests, particularly suitable for people with CP and MS, on castors and has brakes on all 4 wheels. Includes a waterproof mattress. Paid £2,000 a year ago, asking £1,400 ono. Some shoes in very good condition, size 2 and 3 (children), any offers. Tel: 020 8346 6365.

DISCLAIMER

DN is not responsible for claims made in the adverts it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with advertisers before relying on them.

• Recruitment (on pages 42 to 46)

Leonard Cheshire is Britain's leading disability care charity. In over 160 care homes, day services, Care at Home and other services, 8000 staff, supported by thousands of volunteers, help enable more than 19,000 disabled service users to lead a full life of their own choice. Internationally, a further 250 services provide support in 57 countries.

Policy and Campaigns Officer (Based in Edinburgh)

£22,000 P.A. (STARTING SALARY)

This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic individual to contribute to disability and social care policy across Scotland and the wider UK as a member of a successful and progressive campaigning team for a national voluntary organisation.

You will identify key Scottish policy and campaigning issues that are relevant to our current and future policy and campaigns agenda. You will also be our political ears, eyes and mouth within the Scottish Parliamentary environment.

You'll be developing and managing a UK campaigning strategy and implementing that plan locally in Scotland with disabled people and other stakeholder groups.

About you:

You're going to be a self-sufficient and self-confident worker who can thrive on working remotely from your London based team and have at least 3 years of experience working on political and lobbying projects, preferably within the Scottish Parliamentary environment.

For an information pack please contact the Human Resources Department, Leonard Cheshire, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4QD. Email: recruit@london.leonard-cheshire.org.uk Fax: 0207 8028270. Closing date for applications: 9th May 2003.

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE

All vacancies are subject to standard or enhanced disclosure.

Project Co-ordinator West Midlands Disability Arts Forum (WMDAF)

£17,442 - £19,824 (Full time)

We welcome enquiries about job shares and part time working

To co-ordinate a program of innovative and temporary public art work in the West Midlands region. The project has developed from partnership with disabled led organisations and agencies working towards increasing the accessibility of the region including Visit Heart of England, The Regional Tourist Board.

The commissions will bring new audiences to a range of public attractions, increase consultation with access groups and celebrate disability arts in the counties of the region.

WMDAF is seeking an organised, flexible, self-starter with a track record in project management and consultation with disabled people. Additional skills include an understanding of contemporary visual and performing arts or knowledge of access issues in tourism and leisure.

For a job application pack please

email: lesley@wmdaf.custardfactory.co.uk or phone **0121 224 7881**. Job packs available in Braille, audio and large print, if you wish to enquire informally about the post please call asking for Alan.

Applications are particularly welcome from disabled people.

Deadline for applicants Monday 12th May 2003

• Courses

University of Leeds Department of Sociology and Social Policy



Diploma/MA in Disability Studies

This unique, hugely popular and recently updated programme of study gives students the opportunity to work for either a Post Graduate Diploma in Disability Studies or the Degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Disability Studies. The Scheme covers both the theoretical and practical issues relevant to disablement and the disability experience. It is designed for people working in or planning a career in the general area of disability related services.

Candidates will normally have a first degree or equivalent professional qualification, but relevant experience will be taken into account where appropriate. This course is taught in an accessible location and the University welcomes disabled students.

THIS POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA/MA IN DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAMME IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING PACKAGE.

For further details please contact MARIE ROSS or DEBBIE WESTMORELAND in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds, LS2 9JT.

Tel: and Minicom (0113) 2334418 or (0113) 2334408

HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE

Supporting everyone's safety

Typist/Word Processor Operator (Band 6)

Business Services Division - Bootle HQ Typing Services
£12,000 to £12,500 (dependant on experience)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is responsible for promoting better health and safety at work and for securing compliance with the law. Our inspectors, administrators, and other specialists aim to ensure that people leave work as healthy as when they arrived.

This is an opportunity to join our lively and enthusiastic Typing Services team. Playing an active role in providing a professional word processing service, you will create charts, input information on databases, and prepare documents for intranet and web site use. Dealing with telephone and face-to-face queries from customers when necessary, you'll also cover for colleagues and undertake other administration duties as required.

More than just a competent typist, fluent in using Microsoft Office applications, you must have at least 2 years' experience of working in a similar environment, and be confident in creating graphics and charts for screen show presentations. Ideally with a background encompassing Front Page Editor and HTML, you will be a confident communicator and have the ability to plan and prioritise your own workload.

For an information pack please call 0151 951 3242. Completed applications must be returned to Vincent Highton by 1st May 2003. Late applications will not be accepted.

HSE is committed to equality of opportunity. We aim to reflect the diversity of the community we protect and encourage applications from minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities and women as they are under represented amongst our senior staff.



www.hse.gov.uk

CIVILSERVICE

Council of Disabled People Warwickshire and Coventry

Charity reg: 1028144

Social Justice and Participation Team European Year of Disabled People

1. Social Justice and Participation Team Coordinator
£21,998 35 hrs per week

2. Participation Worker – BME Disabled People
£19,185 35 hrs per week (open to job share)

3. Information Researcher and Web-site Coordinator
£19,185 35 hrs per week (open to job share)

All posts are on a 3 year contract with 25 days holiday pro rata.

We welcome applications from Disabled people for all these posts – we are looking for a person with personal experience of BME issues for job 2.

For more information and job descriptions please e mail us at director@cdp.org.uk or look at our web-site www.cdp.org.uk. or telephone 024 76675802 quoting post that interests you.

Application packs available on tape and/or large print.

Deadline for applications
Friday 30 May. Interview
dates to be confirmed.

COMMUNITY FUND
LOTTERY FUNDED

• Recruitment (on pages 42 to 46)



With an impressive client base and a growing reputation in the manufacturing and service sectors, the National Remploy Organisation is an increasingly successful business, as well as being the UK's largest provider of open and supported employment opportunities to disabled people.

As part of the continuing development of the Remploy 21 strategy and the modernisation of Remploy, we are now focusing on 11 National Business Streams where we have a sustainable competitive advantage and where we can generate good quality employment and development opportunities.

To apply, please write with full CV and salary details, stating specific vacancy, to:
The HR Department, Remploy Ltd., Britannia Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 5DP.

Constructional Carton Designer/Sample Maker

Packaging - Based Norwich - Excellent Package

With a brief to provide creative design solutions for a growing range of packaging requirements, you'll be responsible for the timely execution of design/sample projects across the entire Packaging Group, working from initial concept to final approval.

Reporting to the Group Design Manager and from a packaging or related manufacturing background, you should be able to demonstrate plenty of creative flair, along with good CAD/CAM skills, which will ideally be linked to a practical knowledge of carton construction.

If you're also self-motivated and performance driven, have a confident telephone manner and a fair degree of computer literacy, then we'll reward you with ample scope and variety in a quality environment.

Marketing Executive

Managed Services - Based Leicester - Attractive Package

Managed Services is a classic, new start up operation, offering teams of fully trained and supervised employees to work on specific customer tasks at client premises, on a short, medium or long term contract basis.

In this brand new role, your work will underpin an exciting marketing and communications plan, offering increasing involvement in a strategy designed to ensure that customer and employee satisfaction are the 'major drivers' of business development.

Responsible for gathering timely and accurate market intelligence, you'll enjoy plenty of scope and variety - undertaking research and analysis, assisting with service development planning, whilst also developing and maintaining 'profiles' of target market sectors, customers and competitors, in order to help deliver an effective 'sales funnel'.

Ideally of graduate calibre and with at least 2 years' experience in a fast paced marketing environment, you must have a good knowledge of the complete marketing mix, including a proven track record in implementing effective communications plans and/or the provision of market intelligence.

Marketing Executive

Interwork - Based Coventry - Attractive Package

Providing a specialist recruitment and retention service to both disabled people, as well as UK business and industry, Remploy Interwork has supported over 4,500 disabled people back into work, by working in partnership with over 2,500 employers nationwide.

As a key member of the Group Marketing team, you'll enjoy a broad based brief, offering increasing involvement across the complete marketing mix - from co-ordinating new initiatives, whilst overseeing creative and design processes, through to the project management and successful execution of well planned campaigns.

With added responsibility for specific activities, as well as selecting external agencies and suppliers, you must be a first class communicator, with a proven aptitude for creativity and innovation, who can deliver effective marketing services to the Interwork business.

Having graduated in a marketing/business studies discipline or actively working towards your CIM qualification, we'll also expect a sound understanding of up to date marketing techniques gained within a customer focused/service driven environment, along with excellent planning and project management skills. Additionally, you should have a fair level of IT literacy, including a working knowledge of DTP packages.

In all cases, we can offer an attractive package and good conditions, but perhaps more importantly, the exciting prospect of joining an increasingly successful and well respected business.

Remploy

Opportunity & Enterprise - Working Together



ARTS FOR EVERYONE

Reg Charity No: 1010059

DISABILITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT WORKER

SALARY £17,000 PRO RATA
PART-TIME 24 HOURS PER WEEK
(BASED IN CARLISLE)

PRISM ARTS IS SEEKING AN EXPERIENCED DEVELOPMENT WORKER WHO WILL CONTINUE TO MANAGE AND DEVELOP 'JUMPSTART' CUMBRIA'S PERFORMING ARTS GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES. AN ARTS PRACTITIONER, YOU WILL CARRY OUT CREATIVE ARTS PROJECTS WITH CLIENTS THROUGHOUT CUMBRIA AS WELL AS ASSISTING THE DIRECTOR TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP FUTURE PROJECTS.

FOR A JOB APPLICATION PACK PLEASE

PHONE: (01228) 674455 OR

EMAIL: OFFICE@PRISMARTS.FSNET.CO.UK

JOB PACKS ARE AVAILABLE IN AUDIO AND LARGE PRINT, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENQUIRE INFORMALLY ABOUT THE POST PLEASE CALL ASKING FOR EAMONN. ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS FRIDAY 23RD MAY 2003.



Supported by Northern Arts
Regional Arts Lottery Programme



CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL



SOUTH YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT

E X E C U T I V E

The Transport Executive is responsible for securing and promoting the best possible transport network for the people of South Yorkshire.

We believe we can only achieve our vision if we make full use of the talents and resources of all our employees. The Transport Executive is fully committed to providing an environment which eliminates unfair discrimination and which actively promotes productive working relationships based on the unique contributions of different individuals within our organisation.

For details of our current vacancies please call our recruitment line on 0114 221 1223

CONDITIONS

Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw lineage adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Telephone numbers and addresses will not be placed in personal adverts, for confidentiality. Instead, Box numbers will be provided. Likewise, telephone numbers and addresses will not be given out over the telephone if requested.

Box Numbers can be requested for non-personal adverts. However, it may limit the response to it. If you want to advertise documents, goods or services contact Patrick Durham-Matthews (tel: 020 7619 7320), fax: 020 7619 7331.

Lineage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham (see contact details above).

DN cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the content of their advert, and to ensure any abbreviations cannot be misunderstood.

Norfolk Disability Sport Co-ordinator

Salary: £19,185 - £20,469

Turner Road, Norwich

Do you believe "Sport is a right not a privilege for disabled people"?

If the answer is YES – then you could be the person we are looking for to drive forward this exciting project in Norfolk.

We are seeking to appoint a County Disability Sport Co-ordinator to expand sport and physical activity opportunities for disabled people in Norfolk.

This 5 year full time post is funded through the Active Communities Development Fund (ACDF) and key partners in the county including the 8 Local Authorities and voluntary sports organisations.

Could you develop the following sports priorities for disabled people in Norfolk?

- Develop partnerships to create sporting provision for disabled people?
- Research the current PE and schools sport provision?
- Establish a Special Schools Sports Association?
- Set up and co-ordinate community based clubs?
- Provide a county information service?
- Design a county programme of events, competitions and festivals?
- Secure funding for groups?

The post will be based in Norwich, employed by Norfolk County Council but will work on behalf of the Partnership.

Interviews will take place on Friday 6th June, 2003

For an informal discussion please contact Liz Delany, County Sports Development Officer (01603) 727884.

To apply online go to www.norfolkccjobs.com or alternatively for further details and an application form please write, enclosing an A4 size self-addressed envelope (unstamped) to Miss Rita Mills, Education Personnel Services, Room 7, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DL. Please quote job reference EPS 3/127

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms by 5pm on Thursday 15th May 2003



Norfolk County Council



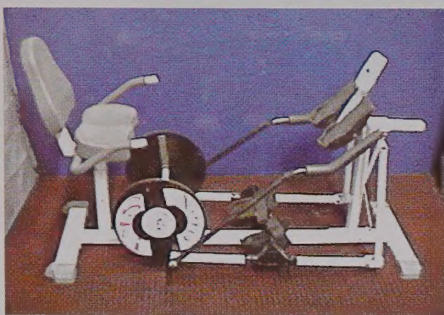
SPORTING EXPERIENCE

Don't miss out on the opportunity to win a fantastic piece of exercise training equipment from Unique Sport. All their gym equipment and exercise products are effective, portable and adaptable, making them ideal for people with disabilities.

Aero-Ski (see right), worth £545.95, is a cardiovascular exercise machine, mimicking the action of skiing. It has a very realistic feel. Resistance can be increased or decreased and there's an option to include leg exercise or just use your arms.

Wheelchair Workout and **Chair Gym** both provide a complete cardiovascular and resistance workout. They use hardwearing, flexible bands which can be adjusted for graduated resistance, to improve muscle strength, endurance and speed. Complete with a video, the Wheelchair Workout is normally £39.99 and the Chair Gym £19.99.

DN has teamed up with Unique Sport to offer you the chance to win one piece of this fabulous equipment. Simply tick the relevant box in the entry form and return to our Freepost address. For further information about the products call Unique Sport on 01434 220497 or visit www.uniquesport.com



to enter

Tick the competition circle below, add your details, and send FOR

FREE to *Disability Now*, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR, or you can fax it on 020 7619 7331, or e-mail the details to:

editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Aero-Ski | <input type="radio"/> Wheelchair Workout | <input type="radio"/> Chair Gym |
| <input type="radio"/> Flower Show | <input type="radio"/> Grapevine Animal | <input type="radio"/> Pruning saw |
| <input type="radio"/> Gloves | | |



terms & conditions

• closing date for entrants: 20.05.03. • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash

alternatives • Winners notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates • Winners may be announced in DN • In association with Unique Sport, RHS, B&Q, Bahco and Tenax.

We may use your name and address for further marketing purposes.

Please tick the box if you do not wish your details to be included ☐

A FLORAL FEAST

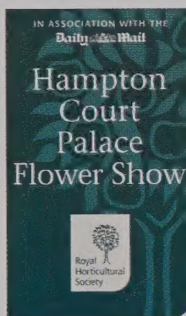


The Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is the largest annual flower show in the world and each July transforms 25 acres of tranquil parkland into a horticultural feast. With more than 20 glorious show and water gardens, around 15 mews gardens, 6 canvas floral marquees, the hugely popular Daily Mail pavilion, the British National Rose Festival, the national hanging basket competition and hundreds of horticultural sundries, the show is packed with plants and inspiration for everyone.

Thanks to the Royal Horticultural Society, DN can offer two pairs of tickets to the show, valid from 10 – 13 July 2003. So hurry and tick the Flower Show

box and send the form back to DN.

If you are not one of the lucky ones, you can still buy tickets by calling 0870 906 3791 or visit www.rhs.org.uk



ANIMAL MAGIC



Win a Grapevine Animal from B&Q and bring your garden to life.

DN has teamed up with B&Q to offer five lucky readers the chance to win a decorative Grapevine Animal. The Grapevine Peacock, worth £12.98, is

certain to add a regal splash to your garden and who can resist the rustic charm of the Grapevine Pig, normally £9.98. Just select Grapevine Animal in the entry form for your chance to win. For stockists call 0845 222 1000 or log on to www.diy.com



B&Q

A CUTTING EDGE



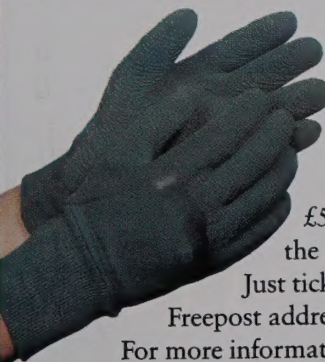
Is pruning a "saw" experience for you? Bahco Tools has introduced a unique new range of low-friction pruning saws with toothings designed for high cutting performance and to stay sharp four times longer than conventional teeth. The special green coating on the blade reduces cutting effort by up to 30 per cent. With a strong, comfortable, two component plastic handle, the PG72 saw, worth £20.72, also has a safety lock.

DN has four to give away so, for your chance to win, select Pruning Saw in the entry form and return to our Freepost address.

For local stockists contact Bahco Tools Ltd on 0121 504 5220.



HANDY GARDENING TIP



If your hands get damp and cold when gardening then you need the All Seasons Thornproof Glove from Tenax. Made from 100 per cent cotton for comfort, with a latex rubber coating to protect your hands from the elements and any stray thorns, a pair of these gloves will put an end to soggy gloves and prune fingers.

Depending on size, prices vary from £4.99 - £5.99, but DN is able to offer five lucky readers the opportunity to get their mitts on a pair for free.

Just tick the Gloves box and return the coupon to our Freepost address for your chance.

For more information and stockists, call Tenax on 01978 664667.



DN next month



Andrew Scudamore burns rubber in his Grinnall Scorpion at last year's Mobility Roadshow

All the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 26 May.

● TAKE THE RIGHT ROUTE

Our 20-page motoring supplement gives you the knowledge, plus expert views and tips from other drivers.

● DN'S EMPLOYMENT SURVEY (3)

Any signs of improvement in government departments?

● SEXUAL ABUSE AND DISABILITY

DN investigates

● DN READERS' SURVEY RESULTS

Promise!

NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

(Please complete and take to your newsagent)

Please reserve me a regular copy of *Disability Now* until further notice ☐

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address ☐

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

To the newsagent: *Disability Now*, ISSN 0958-4676, is published monthly by Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

It is distributed by MMC Ltd, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR.

Tel: +44 (0)1483 211222, fax: +44 (0)1483 224541.

DN
disabilitynow

£1.80 May 2003

Better shape up!

The gym's for you too

Not working

New report slams government job schemes

Get back to your roots

Grow your own grub



The New Look Citroen Berlingo fully converted now available on Motability 5yr Contract Hire



For info on our full range:
0845 345 0127 (local rate)
sales@lewisreedgroup.co.uk
www.lewisreedgroup.co.uk



Citroen Berlingo from £12,470.00



Renault Kangoo from £12,470.00



Citroen Dispatch from £14,750.00



Volkswagen T4 from £13,850.00



Toyota Hiace from £15,450.00



Renault Traffic from £14,950.00



Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

Errors & omissions excepted. All prices exclude VAT & Road Fund Licence.